

Excellent reading for Historians, Collectors,
and all Lovers of our Great Sport



This recent discovery, the only known example, may be an important export link to the spread of the new game around the world. See page 3 for the details.

Table Tennis History Journal



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From the Editor

Dear Friends,

Welcome to issue 91 of the *Table Tennis History Journal* for historians, writers, collectors, and all lovers of our sport. We begin with some sensational and important **New Discoveries - Old Treasures**. **Fabio** has found an early set of Ping-Pong or Gossima with previously unknown box design, as well as the very rare Parker Barna and McClure bats. Congratulations Fabio !

Bruno Lancon (FRA) found a great pair of early Bourquin Barna bats in a custom box, and he sends an early ad with unusual name.

Alan Duke (ENG) continues his series on early magazine and newspaper articles. **Jorge Arango** (COL) sends his 10th installment on early pirated images, while **Gerald Gurney** (ENG) recalls his experience with 2-time World Singles Champ Johnny Leach.

Welcome back to **Rudi Sporrer** (AUT), ITTF Rules Committee Chairman, who shares some **Great Shots**, vintage photographs as well as results from a 1926 match between Austria and Hungary. **Hans-Peter Trautmann** (GER) continues his series on philatelic varieties, and **Auction Action** has some surprises.

Hope you enjoy the new issue. Feedback always welcomed. Next edition scheduled for May 1, 2018. I encourage our readers to share their experience, research and writings about Table Tennis history.

For our sport, Table Tennis. For All. For Life.

Chuck

ANNOUNCEMENT



Alica Graofova's Bronze medal from the 1969 World Ch., Corbillon Cup

ITTF Statistics & Wikipedia show that the Czechoslovakia Women's team lost the Bronze playoff and placed 4th, but give no indication that they also received the Bronze medal, confirmed by team member Alica Grofova. The singles & doubles events also had shared Bronze. Special thanks to Mrs. Breyerova of the SSTZ for her dedicated work to update the historical records.

New Discoveries - Old Treasures

Fabio's Fabulous Finds



Above: the only known example of Ping-Pong or Gossima with text-only design. Amazing this would surface after so many years of collecting! The set also includes a Hamley's ball and the old Gossima wood netposts, which are secured under the table via a cloth belt. A sensational find - congratulations Fabio! World renowned Jaques expert Michael Thomson (SCO) suggests this set was for export.

We are reminded of the early Parker Bros (USA) set (left) which also has a text-only box lid, with Hamley Brothers mentioned but not Jaques.



Another surprise discovery, a set of Ping-Pong or Gossima in wood box, with Hamley's sticker label, and a fine pair of single vellum cane rackets. The metal throat piece (left) has the name Hamley's and 'Ping Pong'. These rackets were patented by Joseph Robert Mally on 19 April, 1901, English patent number 8061 with description: 'Improved battledore, the frame consisting of a length of round cane bent to shape, the half-round ends bound together by split cane to form the handle ...' This is new evidence of a business relationship between Hamleys and Mally concerning the new game.



The elusive and highly prized Barna bat by Parker Bros (USA), beautifully preserved in original box, screwed grips, with 4-page advertising brochure, showing the Barna bat, but also the McClure bat with impressed signature.

See next page for the McClure bats!



Barna Racket

Barna Racket — Specially designed and used by Viktor Barna of Hungary—five times Champion of the World. Perfected special rubber surface. Short wooden handle bearing the signature of Barna, heavy blade. The best Ping-Pong Racket made.

Retail Price, \$2.00



McClure Racket

McClure Racket — Designed and used by Jimmy McClure, the Champion of the United States. Rubber surface, heavy blade, specially shaped wood handle bearing signature of Jimmy McClure.

Retail Price, \$1.50



New Discoveries - Old Treasures

Bruno Lancon (FRA)



An unusual attache style case for the set.



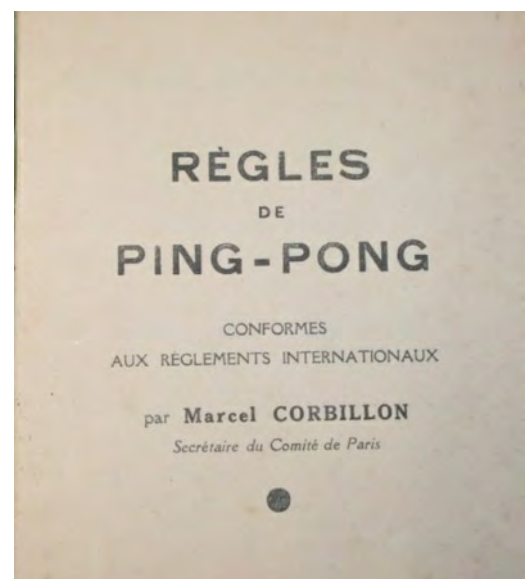
Our friend Bruno found a great set with pair of 5-ply Bourquin style bats, nailed grips, and white ivoryine inserts. Bravo Bruno!



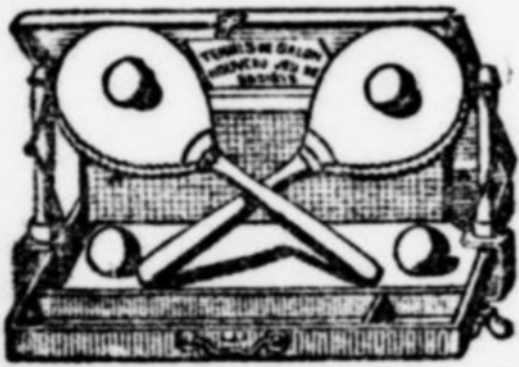
3x 'SIX' balls in the set



'La Raquette des Champions'

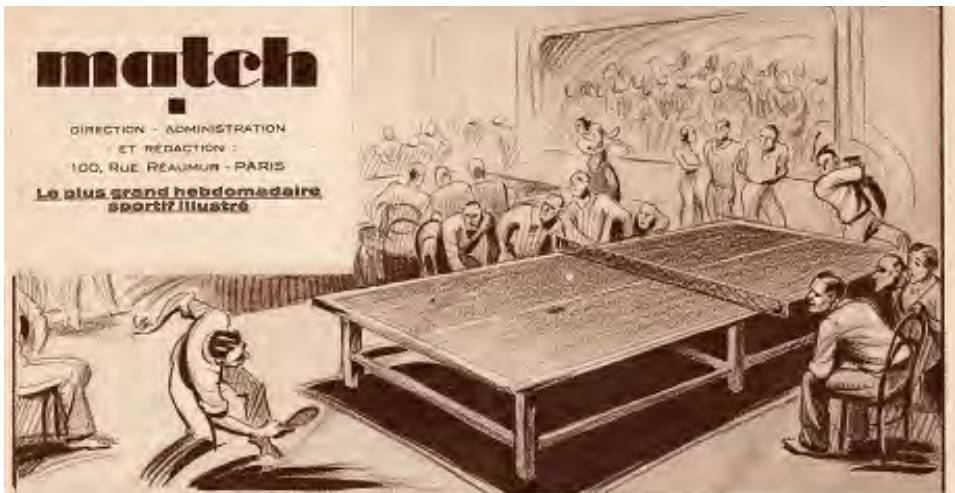


Rules by legendary Marcel Corbillon



DING DONG, nouveauté, jeu de tennis de table, dans un joli carton, raquettes peau, filet, etaux et balles. Vendu partout 10 fr. 6 90
À la Samaritaine.....

Bruno also found this early advertisement for 'Ding Dong', the game of table tennis, with an attractive carton, drum rackets, net, clamps and balls.



match

DIRECTION - ADMINISTRATION
 ET RÉDACTION :
 100, RUE, RÉAUMUR - PARIS
Le plus grand hebdomadaire sportif illustré

PINGPONGOMANIE

Depuis longtemps déjà le « ping-pong » a vu triompher de table sur ping-pong de façon assez aisée. Cependant, ce n'est pas maintenant que ce jeu est en passe d'être le véritable « sensation sportive » ; tout comme le basket-ball, il y a quelques années.

À Paris, au saloir de tennis de table viennent de pointer comme championnes. Il y a eu de la concurrence, ce qui ne peut être que la cause de ping-pong. Les amateurs se précipitent. On ouvre les tables du dimanche à un rendez-vous tel qu'on n'en a jamais eu. Ici, on voit, on entend, on applaudit, on s'efforce. Les clubs achètent des installations ; les terrains se disputent les courts car ils ont de nouvelles installations. On lance des équipes, on se lance des défis, on organise des clubs, ténors, le tournoi Stade-Racing. On organise même des concours internationaux. Ce fut le cas, par exemple, du match Paris-Berlin qui permit aux visiteurs d'apprécier les meilleurs joueurs français par 10 victoires à 2. Les marchands de réceptifs commerciaux font des affaires d'or. En effet, chaque club veut avoir la même marque que les champions connus. Des ventes énormes ont eu lieu de nos réceptifs sans dédaigner la liste des meilleurs joueurs d'Europe, y compris notamment les Hongrois, dont les noms sont partout en évidence. On compare les ventes sur terrain ; on se dispute en « Maribou », en « Maccabi », en « Maccabi », en « Juppé », etc., les plus fins regards du moment. Les tables sont achalandées sans



cesser de rapidité, de jugement, de réflexion, de volonte, d'aptitude spirituelle et de self-control. Le ping-pong est devenu un jeu plus intéressant car il demande en outre un entraînement mental et la rapidité ou à l'escalade par exemple. En effet, pour un débutant, jouer au ping-pong sur le table de la salle à manger, ce n'est pas seulement s'efforcer de faire passer au-dessus du filet la petite balle blanche sans rebonds déconcertants. Jouer au ping-pong, c'est d'abord et surtout faire consciencieusement le réceptif.

Tous les débutants frappent la balle avec une force de bras alors qu'il faudrait la grâce de la ballerine. Pourtant : la petite balle rebondit étonnamment. Elle tombe partout, sauf sur le table. En vain, vous faites un effort de se baisser, se relever, d'approcher, d'éloigner, d'attraper, d'écarter, de pousser, de contenir, de tenir, de plus, de jacter, d'agir furieusement une coupe ou un balai pour reprendre possession de la balle ! Comme par hasard, cette petite balle va toujours se cacher au plus profond d'un dessous de table ou sur le bord du grand buffet par exemple. Elle admet également de jouer dans la coupe suspendue au plafond. Que de soucis à déplacer ! Que d'équilibres instables à réaliser ! Que de trébuchements, de pertes et d'agacement à déplorer ! Quelle ardeur, quelle tristesse et quelle performance !... Toute minute de ping-pong se fait pour vous comme une brillante randonnée, pour vous permettre de découvrir sérieusement votre agilité et peut rendre à vos muscles et articulations toute la grâce de leur prime jeunesse !

Alors ! ne dites plus que le ping-pong n'est pas un sport !

PA. ENGAUSSE.



... le sport sans tout d'un coup ? Les échanges de balle sont rapides. L'habileté de certains champions fait du ping-pong un jeu de l'habileté professionnelle. En championnat, l'effet à sensation et l'impact, le « basket de coupe » sont tout à fait caractéristiques. Les échanges durent quelquefois fort longtemps et sont ponctués de larmes ou d'enthousiastes applaudissements. En effet, de nombreux spectateurs viennent régulièrement encourager les adversaires en présence. Dans les salons, le ping-pong connaît une nouvelle faveur. D'anciennes et nouvelles sont en train de débiter la dame pour jouer au ping-pong. Peut-être même l'empêcher ! On parle déjà de style propre à chaque nation : il y avait le style hongrois, le style anglais, maintenant, grâce au champion de France M. Vassart, il y a aussi le style français (Abou dit). Le nombre des joueurs augmente journellement ; la ping-pongomanie veut de faire son apparition. Les plus de joueurs ont été heureux de pouvoir créer avec les étrangers ; les voyages et autres parties de plaisir sont ainsi de « être » par trop attirés vers le ping-pong de ce sport. Les dames s'y adaptent aisément et font parler d'elles ; les tables, les réseaux, les « petites tables » prennent leur revanche sur les gens, les lieux, les circonstances. Quand une table, de son trouer ou ce jeu des meilleurs rendus à leur intérêt. Bientôt, Monsieur le Docteur ne recommandera plus d'arrêter théoriquement à la grande dame d'éviter de retrouver une table de ping-pong !

En effet, si le jeu de championnats n'est pas de nos belles qualités d'adresse, de



Dans le prochain numéro : **AVENTURES DE MA VIE** par Eugène CRIQUI.

This has been shown before, but lacked the two bottom images, one showing a gentleman hit in the head with a ball, the other, a player towel off after a match. Lots of motion !

EARLY MAGAZINE ARTICLES – PART 11

by Alan Duke

This penultimate part completes the series from *The Lady*, and introduces a sketch and article from *Vogue*.

Vogue

PING-PONG OR TABLE TENNIS

27 February 1902



PING-PONG OR TABLE TENNIS

There is, perhaps, no better game for the house than ping pong, table tennis or whiff-whaff, as the game is variously known. In England, ping-pong, as it is there called, has been played for some time, but here the game did not come into prominence until this winter. It is practically the revival of a game introduced about ten years ago, the improvement in this new game being a discovery of a material which lends itself to the manufacture of what we may call a feather-weight ball, this enabling the player to give a firm stroke without obtaining great distance, or endangering the surroundings of the room. It is played on a long table, made for the purpose and covered with felt, or on a dining, billiard or library table. A small green or white net, fastened to posts, is stretched across the table and clamped or weighted to hold it in place. The balls are about the size of a golf ball and of feather weight. The racquets are small and of gut or like tennis racquets. The game has met with an enthusiastic reception in New York this winter, much of the enthusiasm being laid to the fact of the recent revival of interest in tennis last season at Newport and Bar Harbor.

An accessory to the house game is the retriever, a cane-like piece of wood, finished at one end with four prongs of thin bent iron, to pick up truant balls, which have fallen to the floor.

The game makes a delightful diversion for one's guests, either at an afternoon or evening entertainment. Prizes are given both first and second, or the best all-round champion, applying the same rules as one would in a tennis tournament.

Tables, especially prepared, sell from \$12 up, though any square-edged table will do if long enough, while a

billiard table would be excellent, using the weighted posts for the net.

The sets cost from \$3.50 up, according to the covering of the balls, racquets, and manner of sustaining the net. Retrievers may be had for 35 cents apiece, and folding trestle tables may be bought, which are convenient to fold up and put away when not in use, or for taking to the country house. [A summary of the Rules followed, employing tennis service and scoring, but no volleying. Wings "(when used)" counted as part of the net.]

The Lady

6 March 1902

X.

IT is inevitable that a game which has bounded into popularity with such amazing rapidity should present many moot questions somewhat puzzling to solve. The one, perhaps, of greatest importance which is at present agitating the minds of expert players is as to the desirability or otherwise of permitting volleying. Hitherto there have been but two lawn-tennis strokes barred in the playing of table-tennis, one the overhand service, the other being the volley. These two strokes were wisely judged too violent to suit an indoor game played at such close quarters to one's opponents. Even without them a hard player can deliver balls, both in service and return, which are practically untakable. To introduce them would probably tend to increase the violence and decrease the science of the game as now played.

The Lady

13 March 1902

XI.

MUCH useful information respecting the game and the playing of it may be gleaned from the perusal of "Table

EARLY MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Tennis, and How to Play It," by Messrs. M. J. G. Ritchie and Walter Harrison (C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd.).

It is to the enterprise of one of the authors of this book—namely Mr. M. J. G. Ritchie—that the rapid and successful development of the "All-England Table-Tennis and International Games' Club" at Westminster is due. The galleries have an entrance quite separate from that of the Royal Aquarium, and ladies who go there to play together will find their club premises as private to themselves and their fellow-members as an entirely separate building. The great advantage possessed by this over any other club that I know of is that the tables will always be free for the use of its members, whether they choose to look in morning, afternoon, or evening.

New York Sun

19 March 1902

R. H. Macy & Co.'s Attractions Are Their Low Prices.
Macy's
Both Sides 14th St. from 11th to 15th, 6th Ave.

Table Tennis.
Table Tennis—the game of the period—the theme of the hour. A new kind of exercise for leisure hours at home. Absorbing enough to chase away memories of work-time worries. Keeps mind, eyes, hands and feet in constant play—back, too, for there's much bending down to pick up the ball. We are selling standard makes of the articles needed in the game for less than any other house.

Table Tennis Sets, including two double vellum racquets, four balls, net and wooden standards, \$1.64.
Table Tennis Sets, including two wood racquets, six balls, net and iron screw clamps, \$2.61.
Finer qualities at prices relatively as cheap, ranging up to \$5.77.
English Table Tennis Balls, per dozen, 60c.

The Lady

27 March 1902

XII.

DESPITE the large amount of ping-pong literature that has appeared, and is still flowing on in a continuous stream, despite the general amount of match and tournament play, and the sets of rules and regulations that are issued from headquarters, a considerable amount of confusion still reigns as regards the correct playing of the game. This is partly to be explained by the fact that the laws as ordained and issued respectively by the rival associations of table-tennis and of ping-pong lack unanimity on several points. Another reason is, no doubt, that the game is of such recent birth, and its votaries are so constantly evolving fresh developments and inventing new strokes, that its state of transition renders hard and fast rules well-nigh impossible.

Nevertheless, it will be interesting to most players to note some of the points of divergence that tend to keep up the confusion. The service is the moot point that causes most discussion, and people often find it exceedingly difficult to agree as to what constitutes a fair serve. In

"How to Win at Table-Tennis" (published by "The Evening News," Limited) I find service rule number three runs as follows:—"When the ball is served, no part of the racquet, except the handle, should be above the *waist*. An underhand service is the correct thing. Overhand tennis services, 'elbow' services, and the like, are not allowed." In "How to Play Ping-Pong," by the Hon. Secretary of the Ping-Pong Association, the corresponding rule runs thus: "The service shall be strictly underhand—that is to say, when the ball is struck, no part of the racquet, except the handle, shall be above the *wrist*."

Now these two rules, if tested, will be found to differ considerably in their application to and modification of the stroke. For instance, it would be quite possible, especially for a tall player, to so hold the racquet that the face is undeniably below the level of the waist—a tall waist—and yet, being above the level of the wrist, to shoot off a practically overhand service. Personally I think that the "wrist" rule is more expressive and prohibitive of "overhands" than the "waist" one, although the latter is more generally accepted.

Then there are many persons who contend that the rules as at present in vogue do not work fairly all round, but impose disabilities on short players. Now, this argument would seem to meet with refutation from the fact that height has so far proved of no advantage; that small players, generally speaking, attain as fine a method of play, and prove to be just as dangerous antagonists, as their taller rivals. Observe also that quite a number of small lads, as, for instance, Muir Stephens in the London Tournaments, G. C. Latham in Eastbourne, and S. Quin in Bristol, besides several half-grown girls, have won success and distinction when pitted against players of many superior inches.

It is quite possible that the rule is not sufficiently inclusive, but it is exceedingly difficult to find a way to better it. A suggestion that has proved rather useful and popular when acted upon for trial is that "the ball when struck shall be below the level of the table." This would necessitate an alteration in many a deadly service system, but it would, I believe, prove a drastic measure against any kind of overhand service, except for infants who do not reach as high as the table. There is much misapprehension as to the advantage which attaches to a high service. It is not the actual height from the level of floor or table at which the ball is struck over the net that is of consequence. It is the action of the server, whether overhand *for him*, or underhand *for him*, that makes the difference.

To put this more explicitly, if possible. Suppose, instead of the "waist" or "wrist" limit, a certain height above the table were fixed upon as the point from which all players, tall or short, must strike the ball. Such a regulation might easily be found to bestow an unfair advantage on very small players, who would thus be enabled to slog off a fierce overhand service even while keeping the face of the racquet below the required

EARLY MAGAZINE ARTICLES

limitation. Tall players, standing high above the given point, would still be compelled to keep to the underhand serve, and so would suffer a distinct disability. This point was specially brought home to me by reason of hearing a discussion between a very short player, whose overhand service had been called into question, and a taller antagonist. The small person, who had for some time been gaily banging overhand cannon balls across the net, was highly indignant when the fairness of his service was impugned. Instead of accepting the correction with a good grace, he argued that the rule, if such existed, did not apply to players of so diverse stature as himself and his antagonist. His balls, he asserted, were struck from a point not actually any higher than that from which his taller opponent served. This was undeniable, but so was it that such self-made regulations permitted him the advantage of overhands which were denied to his adversary.

The British Medical Journal 3 May 1902

PING-PONG TENO-SYNOVITIS.

A GENTLEMAN, aged 30, of heavy build, came to me a few days ago complaining of acute pain in the left leg. I found considerable oedema of the lower third of the limb, The swelling was tender and reddened, and the pain and general disturbance so great as to suggest the possibility of an acute osteomyelitis.

The patient was put to bed and appropriate remedies employed. The next day the oedema had in great part subsided, and it was obvious from the creaking and crackling sensations on examination that there was acute

teno-synovitis, in connexion mainly with the tibialis anticus.

The patient attributed his condition to his daily avocation which involves much walking, but incidentally another and more material circumstance was elicited—that he had been devoting his evenings with much ardour to “ping pong,” and had, moreover, played the game wearing his usual stiff buttoned boots. The pastime in question appears to necessitate many sudden alterations in position, while at the same time the weight of the body is supported chiefly on the anterior pier of the main pedal arch. The strain on the tibialis anticus muscle must under these circumstances be severe, and until in the fullness of time a costume and foot-gear appropriate to this national sport be evolved such cases as this will probably from time to time occur.

Barnes. F. GRAHAM CROOKSHANK, M.D.Lond.

New York Evening World 29 May 1902

JAMES BUTLER
CHOICE GROCERIES

FREE THIS WEEK!

Complete \$1.50 Set of Table Tennis.

Last week we offered our customers a set of this popular game. The response was so gratifying that we repeat the offer again, this time giving it with a splendid assortment of standard groceries—an assortment that is ordered weekly by nearly every housekeeper. No advance in prices because of the free set of Table Tennis.

ALL FOR \$1.50.

THE TABLE TENNIS FREE!

1,000 sets ready—more if we need them. First come, first served; but if we run out by Saturday leave your order and groceries and Table Tennis will be delivered early next week.

Pall Mall Gazette

A PING-PONG PARTY IN SUBURBIA.

1 May 1902

(Vide SHAKESPEARE.)

COMPILED AND ARRANGED BY AMY L. JONES.

SHE	What sport tonight?	<i>Ant. and Cleo.</i> , i. 1.
SUBURBAN CHAMPION	We have . . . our rackets, We will . . . play a set.	<i>Henry V.</i> , i. 2.
UNCLE JOE (<i>to her</i>)	If thou dost play with him, Thou art sure to lose.	<i>Ant. and Cleo.</i> , ii. 3. <i>Much Ado</i> , ii. 1.
SHE	I <i>will</i> challenge him.	<i>Julius Cæsar</i> , iv. 2.
S. CHAMPION	I am older in practice; abler than yourself.	<i>Julius Cæsar</i> , iv. 2.
SHE	The harder match'd, the greater victory. <i>(They commence to play.)</i>	
S. CHAMPION	Your service!	<i>Ant. and Cleo.</i> , i. 1.
SHE (<i>serving two faults</i>)	What's that?	<i>Timon of Athens</i> , iii. 5.
S. CHAMPION	That's a fault.	<i>Henry V.</i> , iii. 2.
	<i>(kindly)</i> You shall have forty.	<i>2 Henry IV.</i> , iii. 2.
SHE (<i>plucking up courage</i>)	There! I hit it right.	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , ii. 3.
S. CHAMPION (<i>encouragingly</i>)	She is young and apt.	<i>Timon of Athens</i> , i. 1.
PAPA (<i>aside</i>)	This business Will raise us all To laughter.	<i>Winter's Tale</i> , ii. 1.



My Visit to the Museums in China by Graham Trimming (ENG)

I had always wanted to go to China, to see the world-famous sights and experience a culture different to our own. This dream became reality in September 2019 when my wife and I joined a touring party that began in Beijing and, then for three weeks, wound its way around China via Xi'an, Chengdu, Guilin, Yangzhou and, after a four-day cruise down the Yangtze River, arrived at our final destination of Shanghai. As luck would have it, the vagaries of the airline industry informed that it was advantageous for us to stay in Shanghai for an additional day after the end of the official tour. So, while others in the party flew home or did their own thing in Shanghai, or ventured onwards to Hong Kong, I did what any table tennis enthusiast would have done, I went to the International Table Tennis Museum.

I say museum in the singular, whereas there are actually two museums that occupy the same impressive building and each is well worth a visit. The ground floor houses the more famous international museum while the upper floor is set aside for the Chinese museum.

Having signed in (entry is free!), I spent three very happy hours alone perusing the artefacts, aiming my camera at anything that didn't move and one exhibit that did, trying hard to take it all in, knowing that it would likely be my one and only lifetime visit. I say "alone", and I very nearly was because there could not have been more than a dozen other visitors present throughout those three hours. The international museum guides you through a timeline of history from the early pioneering days of table tennis through to the modern day.

As you enter you are invited to study variations of early racquets and then, bang (!), you are hit with the first major exhibit. The Foster's compendium set of 1890, the only example known to still exist, is beautifully staged, laid out on a table with manikins of a gentleman and a lady playing in period dress. I was transported back to a time none of us have experienced to the parlour of a grand house in the late Victorian era.

Examples of early boxed sets, individual racquets, balls, net and post sets, postcards and other paraphernalia abound, all beautifully showcased. One item that is missing, mysteriously, is the Jaques Gossima set of 1891, which in my opinion is the most important of the early offerings and the first real set of table tennis akin to what we play today. However, the net-covered ball, that forms part of that Gossima set, is included as one of five showing the evolution of balls in the 1890s.

Even though I have a sizeable collection of early table tennis artefacts of my own, I was left amazed and, frankly, jealous at the huge number of important items I am missing. And, of course, what is on show is only part of the huge collection that Chuck amassed over four decades and which has left the World with this amazing legacy.

Every Olympic Games, in which table tennis has been included, is individually showcased with an example of the torch, photos of the event and other paraphernalia such as badges and programmes. There is also a table used for London 2012.





The next displays bear witness to the evolution of racquets and balls, from the early days to the present time. Special events are also commemorated: Ping-Pong Diplomacy and Korea United.

Following on from the evolution of the early days, the visitor is then taken through a timeline starting with the formation of the ITTF in 1926. There are trophies, medals and examples of bats that have won World Championships and then, one of the highlights, centre stage we encounter all seven World Championship trophies, each individually lit and turning on its own axis. It is quite a spectacle!

The visitor comes next across various displays honouring personalities: the ITTF Hall of Fame; the ITTF Merit Award; famous players; famous officials. A special showcase highlights the career of the incomparable Victor Barna.

Having spent an illuminating period of time in the international museum I then ascended to the Chinese museum. This museum has a different character. Although there are many artefacts, and some of the early exhibits are very interesting, this museum pays homage to the great

Chinese players and, as we know, there have been quite a few of them!

The most visually appealing displays are two settings. One is described as “table tennis in the alleys” and depicts two players and a trestle table against a backdrop of a suburban street scene. The other, which is absolutely stunning, shows Chairman Mao ZeDong being shown the World Championship trophies won by the Chinese team in 1963. The one disappointment was the museum shop. I could not find a souvenir handbook of the museum and the shop was lacking in interest, more focused towards those who wish to purchase a new sheet of rubber.

I took a lot of photos and if you are interested there are about 200 of them in a special album on my Flickr site:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/128229401@N03/albums/72157711453146823>

Graham





The participants in the match between Austria and Hungary, played outdoors in Budapest, April 1926
Hans Löwy is 5th from the right. Can you identify the other players?

1	Zoltán Mechlovits	HUN	9	Teréz Bleyer	HUN
2	Dr. Dániel Pécsi	HUN	10	Sándor Glancz	HUN
3	Anna Sipos	HUN	11	Hans Löwy	AUT
4	Dr. Roland Jacobi	HUN	12 Groh	AUT
5	Piroska König	HUN	13	Robert Thum	AUT
6	Munio Pillinger	AUT	14	Lászlo Bellak	HUN
7	Gertrude Wildam	AUT	15	August Wildam	AUT
8	Miklós Szentey	HUN	16	???	

Men

Mechlovits	- Löwy	3:1
	- Wildam	3:1
	- Pillinger	3:1
	- Thum	3:0
Jacobi	- Löwy	3:0
	- Wildam	3:0
	- Pillinger	3:1
	- Thum	3:1
Pecsi	- Löwy	3:1
	- Wildam	3:1
	- Pillinger	1:3
	- Thum	1:3
Bellak	- Löwy	3:1
	- Wildam	3:1
	- Pillinger	3:0
	- Thum	3:0

Women

Sipos	- Groh	3:1
	- Wildam	2:3
König	- Groh	3:0
	- Wildam	1:3

Men's Doubles

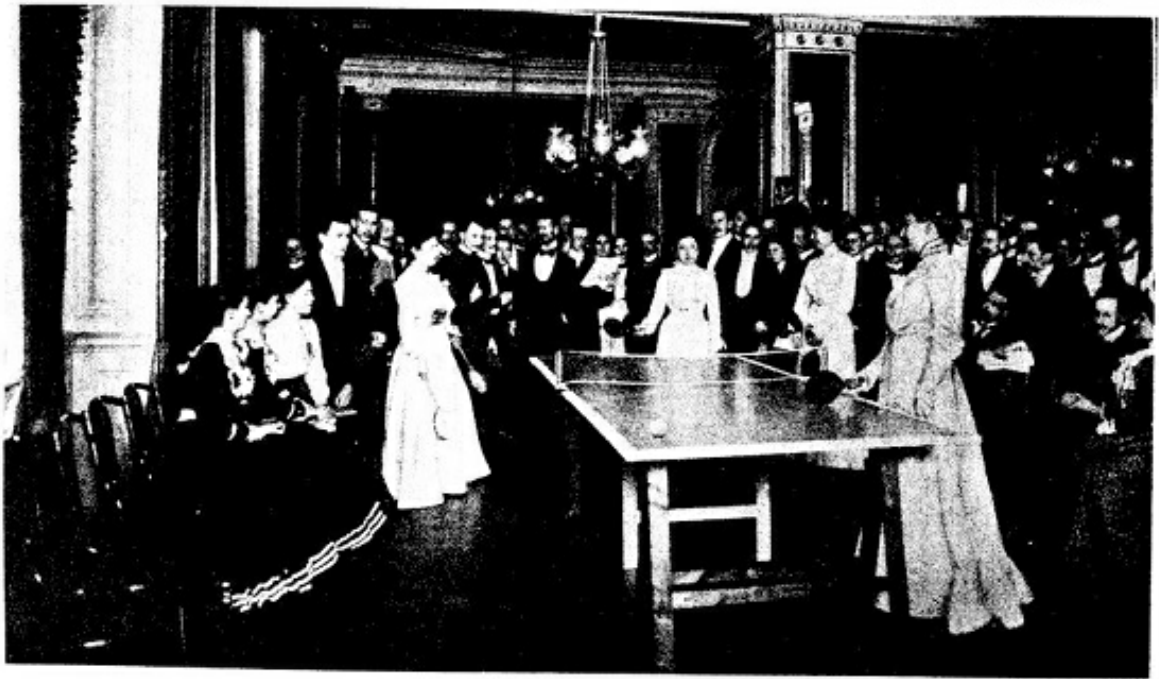
Jacobi/Pecsi	- Pillinger/Wildam	3:1
	- Löwy/Thum	3:1
Bellak/Glancz	- Pillinger/Wildam	3:2
	- Löwy/Thum	3:2

Mixed Doubles

Mechlovits/Friedmann	- Pillinger/Groh	3:2
	- Löwy/Wildam	3:2
Sentey/Bleyer	- Pillinger/Groh	1:3
	- Löwy/Wildam	3:1

Above photograph, player names and results provided by ITTF Rules Committee Chairman Rudi Sporrer (AUT).

Rudi also sends some early photographs from various Austrian publications, shown on the next few pages. Thank you Rudi !



Das Ping Pong-Turnier des Wiener Sportclub „Der Rambler“.
 Original-Bildschreibung für die „Wiener Wochenschrift“ vom 20. 8. 1902, 2. und 3. Fol. aus Nummer 30/31 der W. W. (Seite 611/2.)

1902: The Ping Pong tournament at the Vienna Sportclub 'The Rambler'

DIE BÜHNE

Ping-Pong

Der tschecho-slowakische T. T. V. übertrug die am 28. Februar bis 1. März stattgefundene Austragung der mährischen Meisterschaften dem Sportklub Blue Star in Brünn. An dem Turnier nahmen auf Einladung der Brünnler auch Wiener Spieler und Spielerinnen teil, die auch alle Plätze belegten. Bemerkens-

wert war die Auslosung, denn sämtliche Wiener waren am Listenende zu finden. Nachstehend die Ergebnisse:
 Das Herrendoppelspiel brachte einen Sieg des Wiener Paares Christian-Pospischil (W. A. C.) gegen ihre Klubgenossen Freudenheim-Löwy; Dritte Sztankay-Kordik (P. T. E.) und Sach-Nowotny (T. T. C.—W. A. C.).
Dameneinzelspiel: Frau Wiesenthal (Wien) 1., Kronenfels (B. L. T. C.) 2., Mayer (T. T. C.) 3., und Bebarova (S. K. Krat. Pole).

Gemischtes Doppelspiel: Wiesenthal-Löwy (Wien) 2., Mayer-Christian 3., Bebarova-Marschalek und Kronenfels-Joseph.
Junioreinzelspiel: F. Sztankay (P. T. E.) 1., J. Sztankay 2., Kordik 3., und Barbier.
Herreneinzelspiel: Freudenheim (W. A. C.) 1., Christian (W. A. C.) 2., Pridal 3 und Pospischil.
 Der Städtekampf Wien-Budapest wurde auf den 28. März verschoben. Im Anschlusse daran findet das M. T. K.-Turnier statt.

Das Wiener Ping-Pong-Tournoi im Olympia-Saal

1925 Vienna Ping-Pong tournament in the Olympia Hall
 Freudenheim won the Men's, Wiesenthal the Women's

Tisch-Tennis-Fieber in Österreich

Ping-Pong, die große Mode — Wiens Damenklasse unerreicht

Das Tisch-Tennispiel stammt aus Japan. Von dort wurde es im Jahre 1890 nach England eingeführt, wo es bald sehr populär wurde. Der Umstand, daß es den Ausübenden wenig Kosten verursacht und bei gewisser Handfertigkeit und körperlicher Gewandtheit rasch erlernt werden kann, verschaffte dem neuen Spiel bald zahlreiche Anhänger. In Mitteleuropa hielt das Spiel vor zwanzig Jahren seinen Einzug, ohne zur besonderen Verbreitung zu gelangen. Erst seit zwei bis drei Jahren wird Ping-Pong auf dem Kontinent als erster Sport betrieben. Heute sind sich in fast allen Ländern selbständige Tisch-Tennisverbände tätig und in den verschiedenen Klubs verbringen die Mitglieder die langen Winterabende mit Ping-Pong-Spiel.

Heute werden schon in ganz Europa große internationale Turniere veranstaltet. Die Meister dieses Sportzweiges unternehmen Turniere, die sie bis in die nördlichen Länder führen, wo bei größeren Veranstaltungen 1500 bis 2000 Zuschauer anwesend sind. Im Auslande betreiben das Tisch-Tennispiel in erster Reihe die großen und vornehmen Tennisvereine, so daß der gesellschaftliche Charakter dieses Sportzweiges ebenso wie beim Tennispiel stark betont erscheint.

Das Spiel selbst — wenn es wirklich gut gespielt wird — bietet dem Zuschauer dieselben Anregungen und Abwechslungen, wie das Tennispiel, denn es erfordert eine meisterhafte Technik, viel taktisches Verständnis, eine außerordentliche Geschicklichkeit und großes Konzentrationsvermögen. Die graziösen Bewegungen und die Biegsamkeit des Frauenkörpers kommen bei diesem Spiel in ganz besonderem Maße zur Geltung, und es ist ein wahrer ästhetischer Genuß, hübsche und erstklassig spielende Damen während des Ping-Pong-Spieles beobachten zu können.

Die Wiener Turnierklasse gehört zu den führenden in Europa, denn obwohl unsere Spieler bisher gegen die fast unbewältigbaren Ungarn in den meisten Fällen den Kürzeren zogen, werden unsere Meister, was Spiel und Können anlangt, den besten Spielern der Welt — den Ungarn — gleichgestellt. Letztere verdanken nämlich ihre derzeitige Überlegenheit der durch eifriges Training erlangten größeren Ballsicherheit und Routine.

Unsere besten Spieler sind: Wildam, Besko, Massarek (O. F. B.); Freudenheim, Weiger, Löwy, Thun, Christian Pospischil (W. A. C.); Duldig, Heß (Makkabi); Pillingner, Flaßmann (Makkabi) usw.

Der Stolz unserer Ping-Pong-Gemeinde ist aber die Wiener Damenklasse, an deren Spitze die „Lenglen“ des Tischtennis, Frau Trade Wildam (O. F. B.) marschiert. Frau Wildam ist heute ebenso als beste Spielerin gefeiert und bekannt, als die „göttliche Suzanne“, die Weltmeisterin des Lawn-Tennis. Aber auch die Damen Fritzi Weil (W. A. C.), Frau Bauer (Amateurs), Fräulein Grob (O. F. B.) und Frau Wiesenthal (Amateurs), welche letztere unlängst gegen Frau Nappach, die deutsche Meisterschaft gewinnen konnte, gehören ebenfalls — trotz des Klassenunterschiedes, der sie von Frau Wildam trennt — der internationalen Extraklasse an. Diese vornehme Gesellschaft wird noch durch die Damen Fräulein Eily Weil (W. A. C.), Frau Flaßmann, Fräulein Feldmann, Fräulein Stein (Makkabi), Fräulein Sturmwind und Frau Lichtschlein (V. B.), zu einer Elitengarde ergänzt, auf die wir mit Berechtigung stolz sein können.

Der Ping-Pongmeister Löwy (O. F. B.)




Die Meister des Ping-Pong: Freudenheim (W. A. C.), Frau Wildam (O. F. B.), Herr Wildam (O. F. B.), Frau Wiesenthal (Amateurs), Dr. Pecci (M. T. K.), Mechlovits (M. T. K.), Dr. Jacobi (B. B. T. E.), E. Kendo (B. B. T. E.)

1926. L-R: Freudenheim, Wildam, Wildam, Wiesenthal, Dr. Pecci, Mechlovits, Jacobi, Kendo



Szabados, der Führer des ungarischen Weltmeisterteams (links), spielt gegen Haydon (England).

Die ungarischen Sieger (vorne links) mit dem österreichischen Team, das den zweiten Preis errang.

Rampf um die Weltmeisterschaft im Tischtennis in Budapest.

Nach photographischen Aufnahmen.

1929 World Championships, Budapest. Left: Szabados plays Haydon (ENG) in the Men's singles. Right: The Hungarian team won the Swaythling Cup over Austria.



Internationale Tischtennis-meisterschaften

Links: Am Sonntag wurde in der Sporthalle in der Stiftslagerne das Finale der internationalen Tischtennis-meisterschaften von Oesterreich ausgetragen. Am meisten interessierte naturgemäß das Herren-einzel, da hier Oesterreichs Spitzenspieler auf ausländische Elite stießen. Der Finalkampf nahm denn auch einen sensationellen Verlauf, denn Bellak schlug Weltmeister Bergmann 3:2, nachdem er schon früher über Wagner, Raipar und Goebel Siege errungen hatte. Eine Szene aus dem Double-Spiel Bergmann-Goebel (rechts) gegen Altmann-Tartakower.

Report from the 1938 International Austrian Championships. Bellak defeated Bergmann 3-2 in the Men's Singles final. The photo shows a scene from the Men's doubles, Bergmann/Goebel vs Altmann/Tartakower.



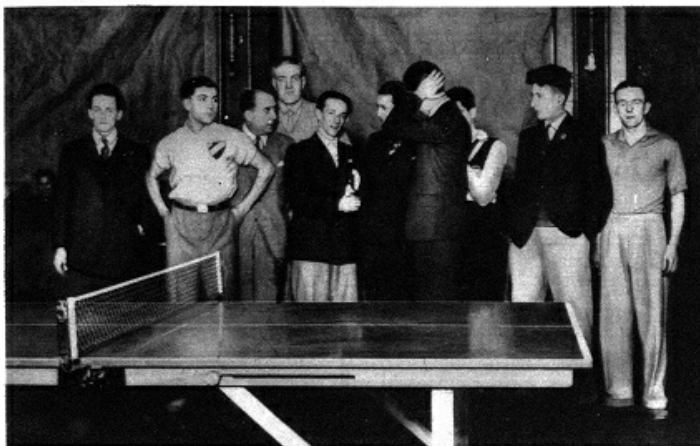
In Budapest wurde am 3. April ein inoffizieller Tischtennis-Länderkampf Ungarn—Oesterreich ausgetragen. Die Oesterreicher wurden von den in Hochform befindlichen ungarischen Spitzenspielern mit 9:0 vernichtend geschlagen. Unser Bild zeigt die ungarischen Meister Barna (Mitte), Szabados (links) und den besten Oesterreichischen Spieler Liebster.

1932 match between Austria and Hungary L-R: Szabados, Barna, Liebster. Hungary won the match 9-0

1936 World Championships, Prague. 8 tables of matches. 23 nations competed. Kolar (TCH) won the Men's singles, and Ruth Aarons won the Women's singles. Austria won the Men's teams, Czechoslovakia won the Women's teams



Internationale Weltmeisterschaftsspiele im Tisch-Tennis in Prag: Blick in den Lucerna-Saal während des gleichzeitigen Spiels an acht Tischen. — Es nahmen 23 Nationen an dem Wettbewerb teil, die Oesterreicher haben sehr gut abgeschnitten. Phot. Centropres.



11
Tischtennis-Weltmeisterschaften in Baden bei Wien

Links: In Baden bei Wien werden jetzt die Kämpfe um die Weltmeisterschaft im Tischtennis ausgetragen. Die prominentesten Vertreter Englands, Frankreichs, Ungarns, der Niederlande, Oesterreichs und vieler anderer Staaten nehmen an diesem großen Weltbewerbe teil, der gleich in den ersten Spielen den Oesterreichern schöne Erfolge brachte, die gegen Belgien mit 3:0 und gegen Lettland in einem Kampf, der über vier Stunden währte, mit 5:4 Siegen konnten. Unser Bild zeigt die prominenten Vertreter einiger Staaten. Von links: Himer (London), Millar (London), Feher (Ungarn), Kolar (Oesterreich), Barna (Ungarn), der jetzige Weltmeister, Ferner (Finland) und Schahow (Lettland).



1933 World Championships, Baden bei Wien, Austria: Freudenheim, Kohn, Flussmann, Wilmott, Feher and others



In Baden bei Wien gelangten in der Woche die Tischtennis-Weltmeisterschaften zur Austragung. Weltmeister im Herren-Einzel wurde der Oesterreicher Bergmann (Mitte), die Amerikaner Blattner und McClure (links und rechts) gewannen das Doppel.

Winners at the 1937 World Championships: Richard Bergmann (center) in Singles, and Jimmy McClure/Bud Blattner in Doubles



Die Tischtennis-Weltmeisterschaften in Baden bei Wien: Die Schlußrunde im Doppel, die von den Amerikanern Blattner und Mc. Clure gegen die Oesterreicher Göbel-Bergmann gewonnen wurden. — Bergmann (im lichten Hemd) wurde im Einzel Weltmeister. Phot. Presse-Phot.

1937 World Championships, Baden-bei-Wien, Austria. Photo shows Jimmy McClure and Bud Blattner in the finals of the Men's Doubles against Bergmann and Gobel. McClure/Blattner won the Gold -19, -19, 20, 13, 11 to successfully defend their title won in Prague 1936

A Trio of Players' Rackets

by Gerald Gurney (ENG)

I well remember Johnny Leach from the times when he viewed displays of my collection at major events. He was the most approachable of the stars of table tennis and in 1985 I, rather cheekily, wrote to him and asked if he would let me have one of his bats which he had used in play.

I already had a tennis racket used personally by Bunny Austin (with his initials H.W.A. Impressed in the shaft) and also one used personally by von Cramm (with authentication by him in a letter) but both of these I bought from dealers. I prize all of them equally.

Gerald

Editor's Note: Gerald suggests to invite readers to write about their meetings with famous players.



Johnny Leach

15 Manor Links
Bishops Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 5RA
Telephone: Bishops Stortford (0279) 508106

25th September, 1985

Mr. Gerald Gurney
Guildhall Orchard
Great Bromley
Colchester
Essex

Dear Gerald

Many thanks for sending me a copy of your book - 'Tennis, Squash and Badminton Bygones' - it is very interesting - congratulations!

As requested I am enclosing a table tennis bat I have used in championship play - it is a bit tatty and looks quite neglected. Also enclosed is an autograph, as requested.

With all best wishes.

Yours sincerely

With all best wishes,

Johnny Leach

EARLY PIRATED IMAGES

By Jorge Arango

Continuation

This is the tenth article of my series about early pirated images.

42. GALYON POSTCARDS

Four intriguing postcards (two on this page, and the other two on next page.)



Left: (A) postcard from a series of 11 Galyon Postcards, posted on December 12, 1901. **Right:** (B) Another Galyon postcard, with the same motif, from 1902 (Christian Klaus' collection.) The images are somewhat different because the skin and the shoe of the second image are not colored, the same as the right part of the dress, which is also not colored. Such condition could indicate the postcards were hand colored, although it would be very difficult to paint the green color having so many black lines, without painting over them or without leaving blank spaces, as it can be seen later. On the other hand, their positions on the cards are different, and perhaps they were printed at different times.

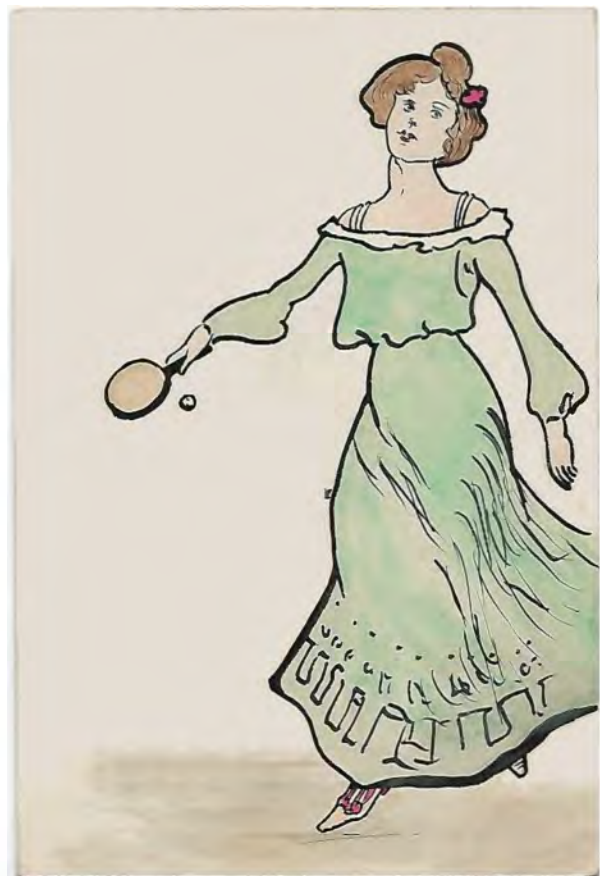
Hoey/Haggett date the series of Galyon postcards on January 07, 1902, and consider them as the first-known postcards on the game. On the other hand, in his Internet article "Table Tennis Postcards," Graham Trimming mentions the first posted postcard of the series he knows is 15th December, 1901. The Galyon postcard at the left was posted earlier, thus it would be the first postmarked!



Detail of the back of the Galyon postcard (A), with the postmark

Mr. Trimming also mentions in his article, the Galyon postcards were advertised in the magazine *Pastime Pioneer*, where they are described as “a novelty”; on February 8, 1902; then, card (A) perhaps is the first one of the Galyon series.

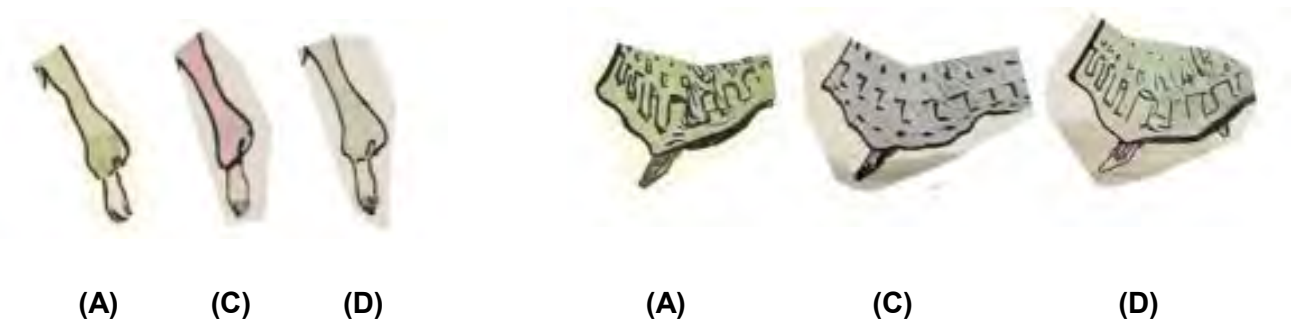
Galyon Postcards are very scarce, and in Internet, it is not found anything about them.



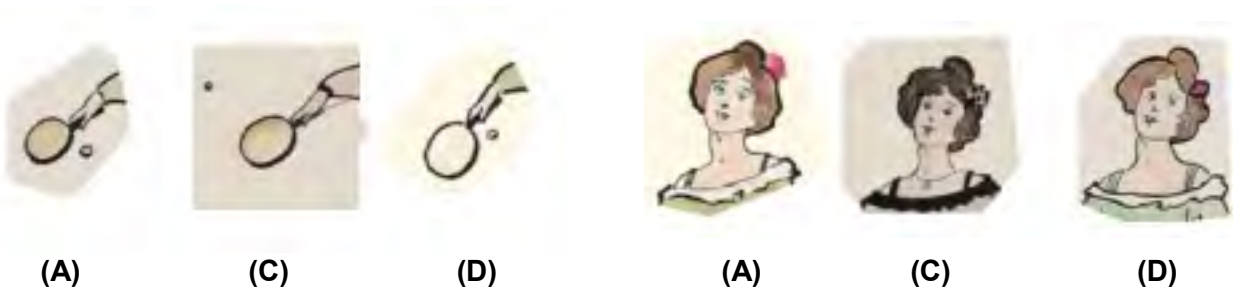
Left: (C) A postcard posted on February 28, 1902. **Right:** (D) A postcard posted on February 17, 1902. Their backs are the same, so the same printing company printed them; on the other hand, I erased the wordings, in order to improve their images.

Hoey/Haggett consider these postcards as pirated copies of the Galyon postcard, and date them on February 17, 1902.

In analyzing the postcards, it can be seen postcard (C) is very different from the others, and between the (A) and (D) there are also some differences, as it can be seen in the following details:



Left: Details of the three left arms. The arm at the left (A) is different from the other two (C) and (D), which signifies the center and the right images were copied one from the other. **Right: Details of the hems.** The lack of the left foot is the only difference between (A) and (D), but I think is a minor detail, because the differences of both images with (C) are many. The center and the right images have shadows under the players. Then, (A) and (D) were copied one of the other, the same of (C) and (D).



Left: Details of the racket hands and the balls. The ball is placed in different places but the left and the right balls are in a similar position; that would indicate (A) and (D) were copied one from the other. **Right: Details of the heads.** The head at the center (B) is different from the other two (A) and (C), which signifies the other two were copied one from the other. Is to be noted the image of (C) is more detailed and has a collar.

A first conclusion is (A) and (D) were copied one from the other; (C) and (D) were copied one from the other, but not so (A) and (C). Then, there are three possibilities:

1. (A) is the original; (D) was pirated from it, and (C) was pirated from (D).
2. (D) is the original, and (A) and (C) were pirated from it.
3. (C) is the original, (D) was pirated from it and (A) was pirated from this last one.

Any of the three postcards could be the first published postcard on the game because the difference among the dates of their postmarks is very little, and postmarks do not indicate the real published date. For example, there are the same Galyon postcards posted in 1904.

It is not possible to presently establish which was the first one, but on the other hand, there are some intriguing questions:



Which is the original postcard, and which is the sequence of impression?

Why the press company published two postcard, almost at the same time?

If the postcards were hand painted, how the green color was applied in such a way as not leaving blank areas along the black lines, as it can be seen in the detail at the left?

Is (A) the first-postmarked postcard on the game and the first-published Galyon postcard?

Left: Enlarged detail of a Galyon postcard

43. POPULAR PING PONG



Left: Geneva Daily Times, April 5, 1902. **Right:** Image from another USA newspaper.

44. DO YOU PLAY PING PONG?



**DO YOU PLAY
PING-PONG?**

TABLE TENNIS - THE POPULAR GAME

This illustration shows a woman in a long, light-colored dress on the left side of a table tennis table, holding a racket. On the right side, a man in a dark suit and white shirt is also holding a racket. A small ball is visible in the air above the table. The table has a net in the center and is supported by four legs. The text 'DO YOU PLAY PING-PONG?' is written in a bold, sans-serif font above the table, and 'TABLE TENNIS - THE POPULAR GAME' is written in a similar font below the table.



**DO YOU PLAY
PING-PONG?**

TABLE TENNIS - THE POPULAR GAME

This illustration is identical to the one above, showing a woman and a man playing table tennis. The text 'DO YOU PLAY PING-PONG?' is positioned above the table, and 'TABLE TENNIS - THE POPULAR GAME' is positioned below the table.



**JAMES
BUTLER**
CHOICE
GROCERIES

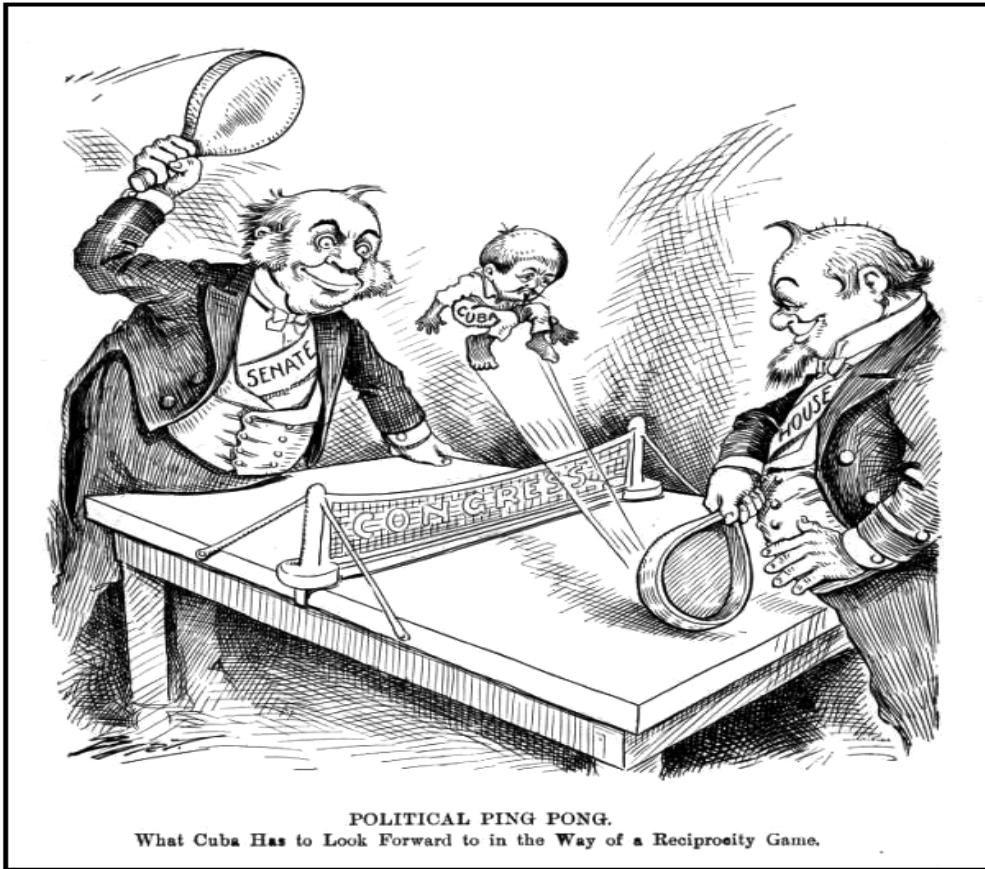
**FREE
THIS WEEK!**

Complete \$1.50 Set of Table Tennis.

This advertisement features a circular logo on the left with the text 'JAMES BUTLER CHOICE GROCERIES'. To the right of the logo is an illustration of a woman and a man playing table tennis, identical to the previous images. Above the illustration, the text 'FREE THIS WEEK!' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the illustration, the text 'Complete \$1.50 Set of Table Tennis.' is written in a similar font. The entire advertisement is enclosed in a rectangular border.

Ads in USA newspapers

45. A POLITICAL CARTOON



The Minneapolis Journal, April 02, 1902



Left: New York Tribune, April 13, 1902. **Right:** An image from the Evening Times Republican, April 4, 1902, with some modifications and the signature suppressed. Although they give credit to the Minneapolis Journal, I think both images were copied from another not-mentioned source.

46. PING-PONG AT YALE



The Evening World, May 07, 1902.



Left: The Saint Paul Globe, June 22, 1902. **Rigth:** A caption from Steve Grant's "Ping Pong Fever"; the image was presented in TTC 45.

47. PARKER BROTHERS AD



PARKER BROTHERS INC.
SOLE MAKERS U.S.A.

PING-PONG

WE STILL HAVE A FEW SETS OF
The Genuine "Parker Bros."
PING PONG GAMES TO SELL



**At Less
Than Cost**

REGULAR \$ 6.00	SETS AT \$ 4.50
REGULAR \$ 7.50	SETS AT \$ 5.63
REGULAR \$ 16.00	SETS AT \$ 12.00
REGULAR \$ 27.50	SETS AT \$ 20.57

SONORA NEWS CO. GANTE No. 4.

April 16, 1903, Mexico City

THE GENUINE

PING-PONG

Can now be had from
WALL, NICHOLS CO., LTD.
 Largest variety and lowest prices. New lot of the fine quality
MATCH GAME "BALLS"

★

The Genuine

PING-PONG

You can find the best selection,
 and lowest prices at
Wall, Nichols Co., Ltd.

Just received new lot of the
"MATCH GAME"
**PING
 PONG
 BALLS**

Hardy's
 "THE 99 CENT STORE"

1513 DODGE STREET,
 "Middle of Block."

PING-PONG

**PING-PONG or
 TABLE TENNIS**

Ping Pong or Table Tennis.
 In Toy Department, Basement.

PING-PONG

A good set of
Table Tennis, with
 2 wooden racquets and
 4 balls. Special for
 Monday only at.... **59c**

Table Tennis
 Sets, with 2 vellum
 racquets and 4 balls;
 regular price \$1.89.
\$1.39

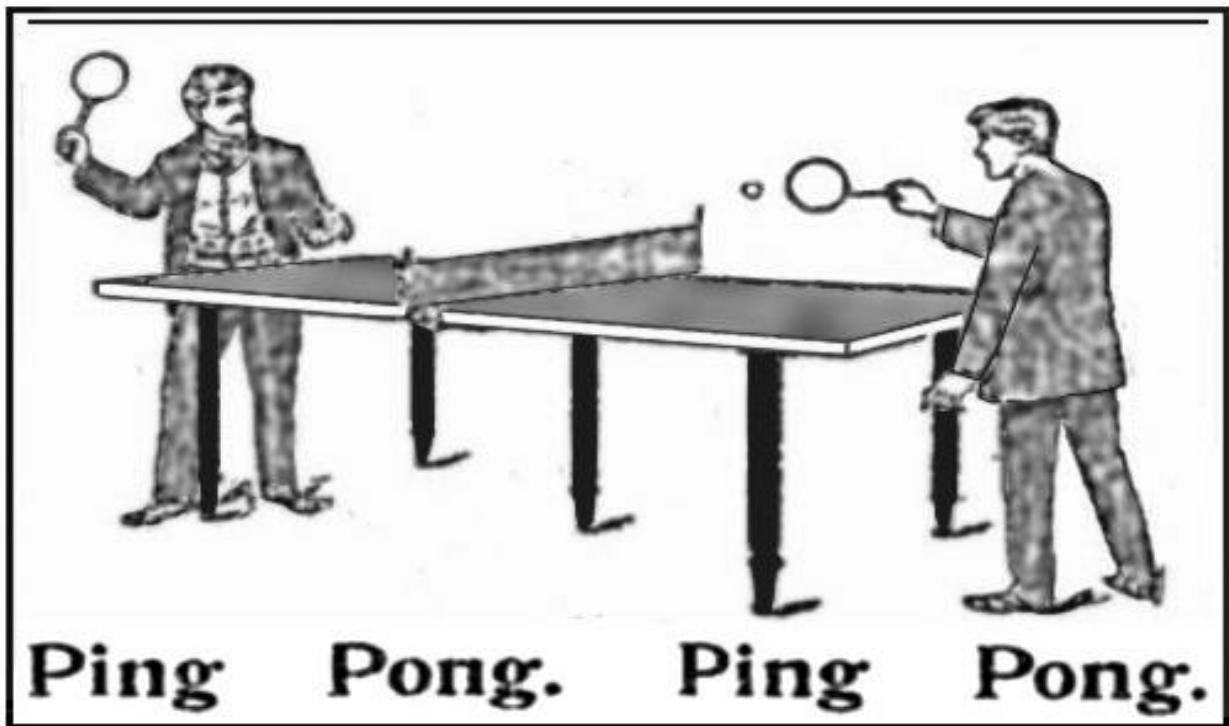
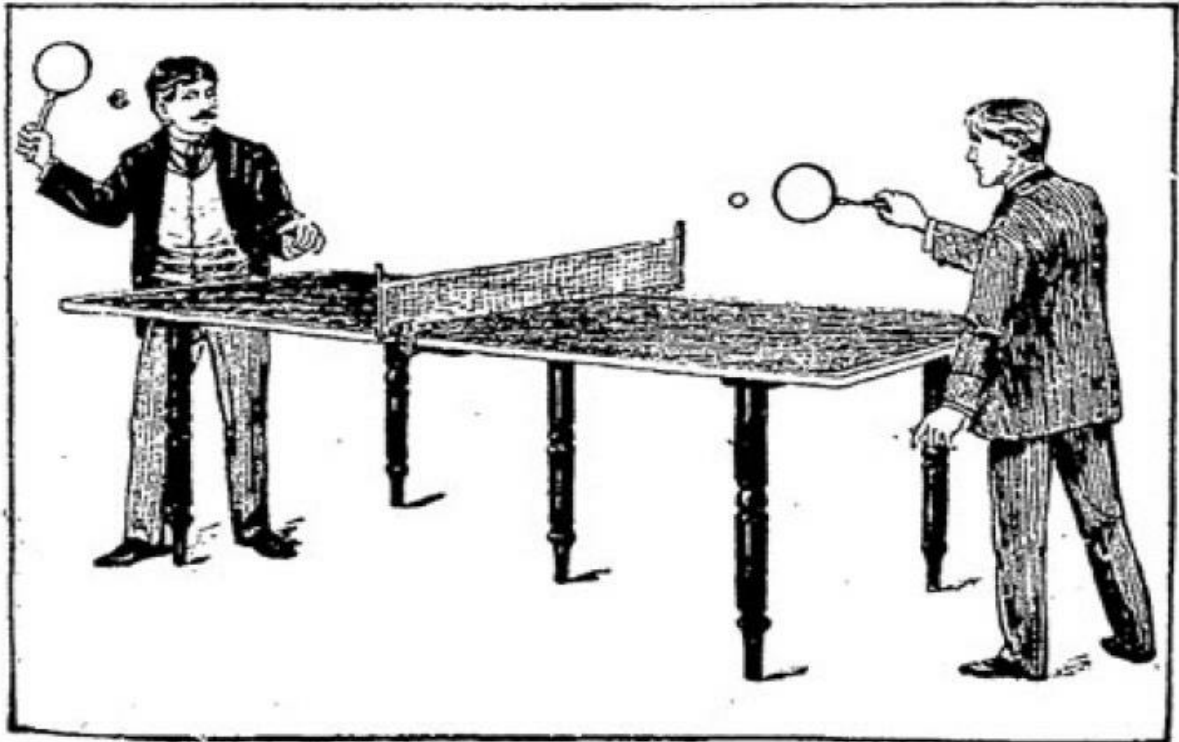
Monday special, only.....

We have a full line of Ping Pong Sets with all the extras
 and supplies, such as balls, nets, racquets and posts, at bottom
 prices.

Above left: Evening Bulletin, October 07, 1902. **Above right:** The Pacific Commercial Advertiser, September 30, 1902. Alan Duke, TTH 85. **Below left:** Omaha Daily Bee, September 14, 1902. **Below right:** The St. Paul Globe, November 23, 02

48. A PORTABLE TABLE

A PORTABLE TABLE FOR THE POPULAR GAME OF PINGPONG.



Above: Steve Grant, TTC 47. Below: Mexico, Steve Grant, TTC 84.

To be continued

"Read All About It" – PART 8 (September to December 1902)

by Alan Duke

This part in the series traces the story up to the end of 1902, featuring mainly extracts from a series of articles in the Dundee Evening Post. The author was **M J G Ritchie**, but unfortunately, the paper kept repeating the same mistake with one of the author's initials (M J C Ritchie), until finally, for the last part in the series the message must have got through, and the initial was changed (but to M J D Ritchie!!). There are also reports on a change by the PPA to the Service Rule, and on proposals for the amalgamation of the two rival associations.



Daily Mail

12 September 1902

PING-PONG NOVELTIES.

CALM BEGINNING OF THE NEW SEASON.

Will ping-pong live, or will the game achieve the end of many other popular crazes and fizzle out? Those superior persons who scoffed at ping-pong last winter, or whose carpets and furniture suffered considerably during the fever, have told each other that the "wretched game" will fail to attract again, that the duffers will not attempt to become proficient, and that only those players who possess real orthodox tables and superfluous elbow room in their houses will be found among the faithful.

Inquiry among the ping-pong manufacturers has not borne out this opinion. It is true that there has been no rush to procure new bats, balls and other appointments.

"The game has come to stay," said a leading maker in the City, "and we already have in hand a large supply of bats, chiefly wooden, together with heavy consignments of balls. My impression is that the pastime will settle steadily down into a scientific winter game. Some alterations may be necessary in the rules, especially as regards the surface of the tables, and, technically speaking, it may suffer as a drawing-room amusement.

"There will be improvements, of course. I am already making tables with ball pockets, and only to-day a gentleman has been in to inquire the price of cord netting, which he proposes to erect around his tables to keep the balls, as it were, within grip. Many customers complained last year of the bother and discomfort involved in diving and searching for the balls. To obviate this we are selling patent screens, which will fold up and can be easily stored away when the game is finished."

At many seaside towns, now that the evenings have drawn in, ping-pong tournaments, at which there were good entries, have been organised. The table tennis clubs in London have already prepared an ambitious programme. Whatever villadom decides, it is clear that the experts will continue to hammer away with increasing zest and enthusiasm. Inter-club matches will be the order of the day—and night. Several local champions have during the close season been "keeping their hand in" in

the back garden, to the detriment of fruit trees and flower-beds. They are thirsting for the fray.

Before the Royal Aquarium passes into the hands of the Wesleyan body the authorities hope to hold at least one large meeting in the galleries. The All-England Table Tennis championship, at present held by Mr. G. Greville, now playing in the South of England lawn tennis tournament at Eastbourne, will probably be decided at the Aquarium in December, just before it is finally closed.

Westminster Gazette

23 September 1902

TABLE-TENNIS PROSPECTS.

Officially—*i.e.*, so far as the governing body is concerned—table-tennis has begun, and last night the first annual meeting of the association was held in the City with Mr. C. G. Eames in the chair. As over thirty clubs were represented, it is safe to assume that the game has "summered" well, and that its votaries are determined to keep ping-pong not only alive, but very much to the fore. We notice that the attempt to form a "community of interests" between the Table-Tennis Association and the Ping-Pong Association has not, so far, had a successful issue. It was stated last night that the council of the former were not satisfied that a union would leave the combined association wholly free from trade interests. It was decided, however, to permit committees to affiliate their clubs under whatever name they preferred—the title of a club, so long as its committee was loyal to the association, being a matter concerning only its individual members. Though it is fairly obvious that new rules must come before long, two amendments relative to the service and the volleying were thrown out last night, and the laws for the coming season remain therefore *in statu quo*.

Daily Mail

15 October 1902

REVOLUTION IN PING-PONG.

For some time past both the Ping-Pong and Table Tennis Associations have been endeavouring to frame a rule that should prevent the terrific smashes of high-waisted gentlemen and give the striker-out a chance.

The table tennis camp favoured a below-the-level-of-the-table service, but the Ping-Pong Association have just

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

adopted the far more sweeping rule that in future the ball must first strike the server's own side of the table, and then leaping the net strike the other side of the table.

The service may be either underhand or overhand, and as demonstrated by those who have practised it is capable of many variations.

Gloucester Chronicle

18 October 1902



Daily Mail

21 October 1902

NEW PING-PONG RULE.

VIEWES OF LEADING EXPONENTS OF THE GAME.

On the whole the general opinion of ping-pong players regarding the new rule, which does away with the "smashing" service, seems to be that the all-round player will get a better chance. A visit to the Alexandra Palace, where the principal club in the country puts in four hours a night perfecting the game, confirmed this view. The new service was in full swing, and there was a marked absence of that "death or glory" look about the striker-out as he waited, wondering whether his opponent's opening will be a fault or a streak of lightning.

The following brief expressions of opinion on the rule by leading exponents of the game may be of interest:—

Miss C. Bantock, North London lady champion and Queen's Hall winner: "An excellent thing, as so many games were won by service only and not by the play."

Mr. R. D. Ayling, London table tennis champion and North London ping-pong champion, has not taken enthusiastically to the new rule.

Mr. Arnold Parker, winner of the first Queen's Hall tournament and a "demon" server, is a keen advocate and demonstrator of the new rule.

Master Muir N. Stephens, the "boy champion": "I consider it much better than last year's opening. The striker-out is not at the same disadvantage that he was."

Mr. J. P. Bromfield, a winner of "locals" and a rising player, who has defeated both Mr. Ayling and Mr. Parker in practice matches this season: "Either service suits."

Mr. G. Washington Gray, hon. secretary Ping-Pong Association: "The smashing service was killing the game and making umpiring impossible. We have taken a plébiscite of every affiliated club. Both London and the provinces are in favour. County associations unanimous."

The new rule insists that in serving the ball must first strike the table on the server's side and then bounce over the net.

Yorkshire Weekly Post

8 November 1902

PING-PONG by M J G Ritchie

[TTC 39, pages 8-9]

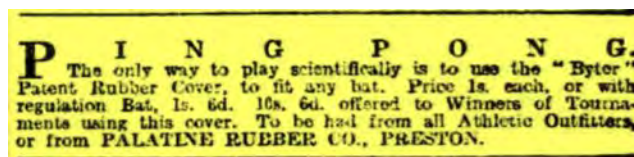


This article was headed with the numeral I (suggesting it was the first of a series), and appears to have been syndicated to other local papers, as this first part was also published (as the first of 12) in the

Dundee Evening Post (from which extracts follow).

Yorkshire Evening Post

10 November 1902



[This could be Patent No. 5537, registered by William Dewhurst (an Agent), of Penwortham, Lancashire - just across the river from the headquarters of the Palatine Rubber Co in Fishergate, Preston. The Complete Specification was supplied in December 1902. I wonder how many claimed the 10/6d (half a guinea) reward!]

Dundee Evening Post

10 November 1902

Sing a song of ping pong—
Anybody's game;
Shuttlecock and battledore
By another name.
Don't forget to bring along
Plenty of the balls,
For we can't delay the score
To hunt the one that falls.

(ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.)

The Increasing Popularity of Ping Pong.

This first part in the series of articles was almost identical to that published a couple of days earlier in The Yorkshire Weekly Post. Understandably, given the location of this newspaper, slight changes were made to the references to England (e.g. 'Ping pong in England' became 'Ping-pong in Britain', and the end reference to tournaments 'all over England' turned into 'all over the country').

Dundee Evening Post

17 November 1902

PING-
PONG
PAPERS.

(BY M. J. C. RITCHIE) [sic]

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

The Rules and Implements of Ping-Pong and Table Tennis.

The games of ping-pong and table tennis, excepting for one or two trifling differences in the rules are identical. The rules that follow are roughly those of the Table Tennis Association, under which most of the important tournaments have been played.

The table must be rectangular, 9 feet in length and 5 feet in width, and the playing surface 2 feet 6 inches above the floor. The playing surface should be of a dark green colour, and there must be a white line three-quarters of an inch wide round the edge.

The net should be made of green gauze, with a white band half an inch in depth along the top, and should be 6¼ inches in height, and placed across the middle of the table parallel with the ends. The net posts must be upright, situated 6 inches outside the side lines on each side.

The ball should be celluloid, white, not less than 4 inches or more than 4½ inches in circumference, and not less than 2.4 grams or more than 2.7 grams in weight—11 balls should weigh an ounce (avoirdupois).

Racquets.—The circumferential measurement of the head, including width at its junction with the handle, must not exceed 20½ inches. The head of the racquet is considered to begin where the width across its junction with the handle measures 1½ inches. Racquets can be made of any material as long as non-reflective.

[There followed a lengthy explanation of the Rules, much of which, although they are surprisingly similar to those in use today, I have chosen to include in order to allow that comparison. The *italics* are mine to highlight the few areas of significant difference.]

The choice of sides or service has to be tossed for. The winner of the toss can either take first service, or whichever side he prefers; should he take service, then his adversary takes choice of side, or vice versa. The winner of the toss can, if he prefers it, require his opponent to make first choice.

Biggleswade Chronicle 21 November 1902

TABLE TENNIS
Or PING PONG.

New and up-to-date Stock of this Popular
Game at all Prices.

Elphick Bros., Biggleswade and Potton.

The Server and Service.

The “server” is the player who first strikes the ball over the net, and the “striker out” is the term applied to his opponent, who returns it.

The service changes after each five serves, viz., the server after he has made five serves becomes the striker

out, and the striker out then becomes the server. *After every ten serves the players change sides.*

To be a correct service the ball must be struck by the racquet when held in the hand; should the server, when endeavouring to strike the ball, miss it, *it is no serve*; should, however, he touch the ball with his racquet the service shall have been deemed to have been delivered. Should he not succeed in hitting the ball over the net, or should he hit it out of court it counts a point to his adversary.

The server when striking the ball *must keep all parts of the racquet except the handle below the level of his waist, and his racquet must be within the side lines of the table if produced*, and behind the end of the table. The server must strike the ball *over the net into the opposite court* without its touching any object from the moment it leaves his racquet until it has struck the playing surface of the table on his opponent’s side of the net.

The ball is in play from the moment it leaves the *server’s racquet* (unless the serve was a “let,” viz., touched the net) until one of the players makes a bad stroke or a mistake, such as hitting the ball outside the limits of the table or into the net, volleying the ball, hitting the ball more than once consecutively himself, hitting the ball on the second bounce, or allowing the ball to touch any part of his clothes or person vertically above or over the table, missing the ball altogether, touching the net or post with his racquet or person whilst the ball is in play, putting his free hand on the table at the moment of making a stroke, or if, after he has struck the ball with his racquet, and before it hits the table, it hits any object other than any part of his opponent that is vertically over the table, or his opponent’s racquet, or the net, or either post.

Things to Note.

To volley a ball is to hit the ball when in play before it has touched the playing surface of the table. Under no circumstances is volleying allowed, and consequently all strokes, except the act of serving, must be made off the first bounce of the ball.

Should the server in serving touch the net with the ball, this is called a “let,” and counts as nothing, the server having another serve for it. Should the server’s opponent not be ready when he has served, or should either player be impeded in any way by bystanders, or prevented from returning the ball by some accident, a “let” can be claimed, and it means that the particular stroke or strokes count as nothing, and have to be played over again.

The server wins a point if his adversary volleys the service or fail to return the service, or if he return the service so that the ball drops on any object outside the limits of his opponent’s court. The striker-out wins a point if the server makes a bad service (viz., strikes the ball into the net or outside the court) or fails to return the ball in play, or returns it so that it drops on any object outside his opponent’s court.

Either player loses a stroke if the ball when in play touches any part of himself which is vertically over the table, if he prevent the ball from falling into its proper court by any part of his person even if not vertically over the table, if he volleys the ball, if he touch either net or posts with racquet or person while the ball is in play, if he

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touch the ball more than once consecutively while in play, if he have his free hand on the table while the ball is in play, or if after he has struck it the ball hits some object other than any part of his opponent that is vertically over the table, or his opponent's racquet, or the net or either post.

About Scoring.

In respect to scoring, the first player to score 20 points is the winner, unless both players reach 19 all, in which the case the winner shall be he who first scores two more points than his opponent, *the ultimate scores still being counted as 20 and 19 respectively*. In tournament play, however, the scoring can be made whatever the organisers like to make it provided it is the same for all, and that full notice is given the players before they commence to play. Thus there is no reason why 30 points up or 40 points up should not be made the game instead of only 20, if such scoring is looked upon as advantageous to the tournament.

Should either of the players serve out of turn the mistake must be at once rectified as soon as found out; whatever points have been scored, however, must stand.

....

London Daily News **20 November 1902**

BATTLE OF PING-PONG.

The battle of the Ping-Pongers still goes on. One section, which acknowledges loyalty to the Table Tennis Association, sticks to the old rule as to the service. The Ping-Pongists proper have adopted the new rule of a bounce in front of the net. The hon. secretary of the Ping-Pong Association, Mr. G. Washington Gray, asks us to publish the following: "In order to avoid any confusion we are asked by the secretary of the Ping-Pong Association to confirm what we stated some time ago, that the new bounce service, authorised by the Ping-Pong Association, came into force on the 1st November, and this service will be used at all public tournaments and all inter-club matches held under the laws of the Association. Whatever may be the laws relating to the service in other games this is the law of Ping-Pong, and affiliated clubs have been quick to recognise and appreciate the improvement."

Hendon & Finchley Times **21 November 1902**

CHRISTMAS NOVELTIES, 1902.						
<table> <tr><td>TABLE TENNIS !</td><td rowspan="3" style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td><td rowspan="3" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">In all qualities. Also Bats Separate.</td></tr> <tr><td>TABLE TENNIS !</td></tr> <tr><td>TABLE TENNIS !</td></tr> </table>	TABLE TENNIS !	}	In all qualities. Also Bats Separate.	TABLE TENNIS !	TABLE TENNIS !	
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TABLE TENNIS !						

H L Seldon, 1 - 3, Brent Terrace, Hendon.

Dundee Evening Post **24 November 1902**

PING-PONG PAPERS.

WHICH KIND OF STROKE IS BEST?

Does "Smashing" Pay !

(By M. J. C. RITCHIE.) [sic]

Ping-pong is virtually the game of lawn tennis reproduced in miniature; the strokes used in the latter are most of them used in the former, although there are a few that are peculiar to both. As the rules at present apply, volleying and overhead play are not permissible in ping-pong, and, consequently, a feature of the game that is always very much admired in lawn tennis is lacking in ping-pong. The writer is inclined to think that in the near future some way of introducing volleying will be thought of, and there is little doubt that such an introduction would prove a great attraction to many players, and do a lot towards abolishing the present monotony to the game.

Forehand and Backhand Drives.

However, to return to the subject in hand, the two strokes that are the basis of nearly all others are the "forehand" drive and the "backhand" drive. ... It should be a stroke that has a good "length," viz., reaches as nearly as possible to the limit of the court, should be of good pace, and should as nearly touch the top of the net as is possible without actually doing so. ... A couple of sketches will show the difference in method of the two strokes.

We now come to a stroke that is used far more in ping-pong than in lawn tennis, and that is a stroke called the "half volley." The half volley means returning or striking the ball almost immediately it has left the table on the first bounce. The stroke is made on the upward course of the ball immediately it leaves the table, and has to be made low down — that is to say, near the surface of the table. The half volley is a somewhat difficult stroke, but is very useful, as it enables the striker to make his shot quickly, and he can project the ball to the spot least anticipated by his opponent much quicker than if he left off striking the ball until at the top of its bound or when dropping, as is the method generally adopted. Good half-volleying is a brilliant game to play, and always interesting to watch, but it is only by dint of great practice that proficiency can be obtained.

Another stroke is made a good deal of use of at ping-pong, and that is the "smash." It frequently happens that in course of play a



FIG. A.—NATURAL DIRECTION OF FOREHAND DRIVE ACROSS THE COURT.



FIG. B.—NATURAL DIRECTION OF BACKHAND DRIVE ACROSS THE COURT.

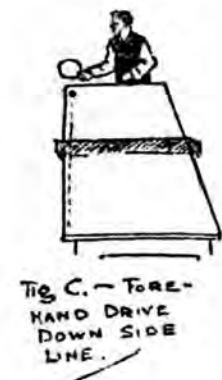


FIG. C.—FOREHAND DRIVE DOWN SIDE LINE.



FIG. D.—BACKHAND STROKE DOWN LINE.

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player, to get himself out of a difficulty, returns a ball over the net high in the air, and often dropping near the net. By a quick overhand stroke his opponent is able to smash the ball down over the net so that it bounces well over his opponent's head or anywhere so that it is impossible for him to return it.

Which Stroke Pays Best ?

All the strokes above mentioned are equally applicable for hard hitting or for slower play with the addition of a cut. It is a moot question as to which is the most effective — hard straight drives or strokes with "screw" on them. The former are likely to gain points through their swiftness and power, the latter gain points more through trickiness and difficulty in knowing what a ball is going to do with a great deal of "screw" on it. There is no doubt that the latter style of play has very greatly increased, and this is owing to the introduction of the rubber racquet. The marvellous amount of spin which can be imparted to a celluloid ball with a rubber racquet must be seen to be believed, and we have heard experts say that indiarubber as a material for racquets should be forbidden in tournaments, the difficulty in returning strokes made with it being so very great, where racquets of wood or other material are also used. We ourselves think that the remedy is to hit very hard, and by so doing the opportunity for putting much screw on a ball on its return is greatly lessened. Otherwise if indiarubber racquets afford so much advantage the remedy lies in all players adopting them.

The Service.

We now come naturally to the "service." Owing to the rule that the server must serve with the head of his racquet below his waist an overhand or overhead service is impossible at ping-pong. A good service, however, generally means the gaining of many points, and, in our experience, a service with as much screw as can be imparted (top spin for preference), well placed, and with as much pace as possible is the best. A good fast service is also often very effective, but owing to the waist rule it is rather a difficult matter to keep a very fast service in the court. Judicious placing is of the greatest importance, and when serving the server should endeavour to veil the direction in which he intends to send the ball. In spite of the half of the table being a very small space it is surprising how, by judicious placing, one may place the ball out of the reach of the striker out.

"Practise all Strokes."

In conclusion the strokes mentioned are the basis for every style of play; all other strokes are varieties of the same. The beginner is recommended to practise them all assiduously, and not cultivate one to the exclusion of others. They are all effective, but judgement is required to use them at the right time. ... We will finish this article with a short reference to strokes that are peculiar to ping-pong only, viz., strokes made below the level of the table. It frequently happens that a ball bounces near the confines of the court, and almost drops to the ground before the player can return it. In returning such strokes it is necessary generally to hit them high into the air so as to clear the edge of the table. This frequently gives the

player on the other side of the net the opportunity to "smash" the return, but it is next to impossible to avoid this.

Daily Mail

26 November 1902

THE LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS

The Table Tennis Association will hold a tournament at the Crystal Palace in February next, when the singles championships and the final rounds of the inter-club championships will be decided.

In response to inquiries we may state that no change has been made in the laws of table tennis since their adoption last spring. The executive committee of the association is, however, considering whether any improvement can be made in the service law with a view to enabling an umpire to better detect a bad service.

Dundee Evening Post

1 December 1902

PING-PONG PAPERS.

How to Play in Tournament.

(By M. J. C. RITCHIE.) [*sic*]

Public tournaments are to ping-pong what club and county matches are to cricket, and public tournaments are to lawn tennis. They enable the public to see the game at its best and as shown by its worthiest exponents. There is a very great difference between playing in one's own back drawing-room, and in a public place, where a crowd are frequently disposed to be critical. A tournament is also an opportunity for weaker players to play stronger ones, and thus improve their game. In practice stronger players generally have a rooted antipathy to playing the weaker, but the tournament has a levelling effect, and they cannot help themselves. True, as entries have to be paid the game becomes rather an expensive one perhaps, as the beginner finds himself hopelessly at sea and beaten every time. He must persevere, however, and he will soon find he will do better.

Your First Tournament.

The first tournament is generally an experience not soon to be forgotten. The crowds of critical onlookers are sure to affect one's nerves; then again, owing to the fact that money has been paid for entrance, many of the players are keener on winning than they would be otherwise. Altogether there is generally an amount of keenness that one does not find in home and club play. It is probable that in playing the members of one's family one knows all their little peculiarities. For instance, we know that brother John is much better on his forehand than his backhand; Emily is just the opposite; and we are able to shape our game in the drawing-room, so that by minute attention to these details we can always win. But when we run up against Jones, who is playing in the tournament and is a perfect stranger to us, we find that he seems on first investigation to be equally as strong both backhand and forehand, and that he soon finds out what we hardly know ourselves, viz., that our backhand is immeasurably inferior to our fore. This fact Jones does not forget, and at the end of the game he is returned a very decided winner—but the effect of that match is to

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

make us be quiet for a while, and assiduously practise up our backhand, in order that when we meet Jones later on we may be able to discover his weak point, and turn the tables on him.

Prepare for a Tussle.

Ping-pong is not a game that requires any special amount of training, it is not necessary to live on porridge and steaks only, but it is necessary to be careful what we eat and drink if we have an important match before us. Just a touch of biliousness is quite sufficient to upset the best eye, and before going in to play we should not eat too heavy a meal—we also think that non stimulants are better to play on than wine. However, this is a matter in which the persons playing themselves must be the best judges. It is a very good thing after playing to give the wrist a rub with embrocation, which keeps the muscles and the tendons pliable and lissom. In regard to style of play, it is next to impossible to give advice about this. Players invariably have their own characteristics, and the best thing they can do is to make as much use of their good points as they possibly can. A tournament is not the place to practise shots we are weak on—reserve that for home or club. When playing in a tournament endeavour that your opponent should give you as many opportunities on your strongest side as possible, and when you get the chances to make points avail yourselves of them, taking as much care as you can to hide where your weakness is.

Daily Mail

9 December 1902

"Globe" Polish Celluloid Balls
SUITABLE FOR
PING-PONG or
TABLE TENNIS.
12 for 6d.

These Balls are in every respect equal to Match Balls sold at six times the price. They bear the same relation to other balls for the same purpose as does "Globe" Polish itself to other polishes, being much cheaper and more effective. All orders executed strictly in rotation.

RAIMES & CO., Ltd., Tredegar Road, Bow, London, E.
HALFPENNY STAMPS PREFERRED.

Dundee Evening Post

8 December 1902

PING-PONG PAPERS.

Should "StoneWalling" be Condemned ?

As the whole idea of the game of ping-pong and table tennis is based on that of lawn tennis, it is only natural that many of the terms used in the latter are used in the former, and in criticising the different styles of play one finds to a great extent the same peculiarities as in the mother game. We have the hard hitting driving variety in which the player endeavours to make his points by hitting hard and making long strokes right round the table. We have the trick game in which the player endeavours to win by guile more than by any particular shot, that is to

say, he wins by deceiving his antagonist as to his intentions. Then we have the stone-walling variety, who win by returning all strokes, and gain their points by their opponent's losses rather than by their own good shots. It must be said that there is a very large contingent of players who follow this latter style of play, and it is a pity, as it is a form of the game that is the least interesting to spectators. We always believe in playing to win, but, at the same time, to never try to make a stroke for oneself, but to wait for one's opponent to lose one, is not the highest type of play. It is to this class of the game that the unpopularity of ping-pong, and the ridicule cast upon it by some at the conclusion of last season's play, is due.

Styles of Well-Known Players.

One of the best exponents of the game of ping-pong is undoubtedly Mr C. G. Eames. His game is good both in the backhand and forehand, and he invariably tries to make his points instead of waiting for his opponent to lose them. Probably Mr Eames has not won as many "pots" as some other players for this reason, at the same time his is a game that is always interesting to watch as being a good exposition of table tennis. Mr Eames' strokes are made quietly, with plenty of pace, and he generally places the ball with excellent judgment. In Mr Arnold Parker, the winner of the first Queen's Hall tournament, we have a very versatile player. We have seen Mr Parker play a most brilliant game, hitting extremely hard, and placing with the greatest accuracy. We have also seen Mr Parker playing the stonewall variety with deadly effect. We need hardly say that we think he shines to the greater advantage in the former game. Mr Parker smashes extremely well, and his play, if the expression "off the table" may be used, is extremely good. He is so active that he frequently returns the ball after most difficult smashes, when it is yards away from the table, and frequently within a foot of the ground, of course, much to his opponent's dismay. Mr Parker frequently puts a lot of screw on his strokes, and the whole feature of his game is its variety. His opponent is kept in a continual state of anxiety as to what is going to happen next. Miss Constance Bantock, a co-winner with Parker at Queen's Hall, and a young lady who has always gone near winning the Aquarium tournaments, depends on her back and forehand drives for scoring her points, and to a fairly strong service, which is delivered with a good deal of pace besides "spin." Miss Bantock can make many of the best gentlemen players go all they know to beat her.

For the stonewall type of player we cannot do better than take Mr E. Ryling's [*sic; R D Ayling*] game at the time he won the Championships of London at the Aquarium (we say "at the time," as we understand he now plays a much severer game).

Fine Ladies' Play.

Whilst referring to ladies' play the writer may as well at once say that the finest lady player he has seen in his opinion is Miss Boucher, a Gloucestershire young lady, and sister to a famous lawn tennis Gloucestershire player, J. M. Boucher. Miss Boucher is very tall and very active—she has a long reach that enables her to get and

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return balls impossible to anyone with a shorter reach; added to this her drives in every direction down the table are terrific. Her service comes off the table, to use an American expression, like "greased lightning." Miss Boucher's play was a revelation to the London ladies. It is surprising that more players do not cultivate an effective service at ping-pong than is the case. To a really good server it is no uncommon thing to make five successive points off the service. Speaking of this department of the game, it is one in which Mrs Mansell, an Eastbourne lady, excels. Her service is terrific, and is made with a vellum racquet, depending entirely on its pace and placing for defeating the "striker out." Mrs Mansell's other play is not equal to her service, otherwise she would be invincible.

A Ping-Pong Prodigy.

We have in one of our earlier articles spoken of Mr Arnold Parker as a "versatile player"; such a description does not apply better to him than it does to Muir Stephens, the renowned boy player. This young gentleman is marvellously good in all branches of the game; although a very small portion of his body is seen above the table, he makes up by cat-like activity what he loses in reach. It must, indeed, be a well-placed return or service that beats Master Stephens, and we have seen him returning difficult smashes which have bounced yards off the table and which he has managed to get at when perhaps only a half a foot off the floor. Through weak eyesight Stephens is obliged to wear glasses, and it is amusing to see him playing with a most serious face. He takes everything with great equanimity, and is probably a master hand at more strokes than almost any player. He is a member of the Hendon Ping-Pong Club, and gets good practice with Parker and other well-known players. As Master Muir Stephens is quite a youngster, if he continues to play and improve at ping-pong as he has done hitherto he will be unapproachable in his form in a year or two's time. Stephens makes a lot of use of half-volleying in his play, and also smashes a good deal. His back hand and forehand drives are both good, and we lately learn that he is putting a tremendous amount of screw into his strokes. A player combining the utmost steadiness with brilliancy at times is Mr A. H. Petch of the Upper Clapton Table Tennis Club. Mr Petch plays with the utmost care. At the same time there is a considerable amount of "devil" about his strokes. He is a very clean hitter, and always keeps remarkably cool, no matter how hard pressed. The latter quality is undoubtedly an important factor in winning big matches, and one which many players never succeed in gaining.

Hard Hitting and Straight Driving.

As exponents of hard hitting and straight driving, with not much guile in the game, we cannot do better than take Messrs Walter Harrison [*co-author with Ritchie of one of the earliest books on Table Tennis*] and G. H. Mennell. These two gentlemen play a hard-hitting game, very pleasing to witness—the longer a rally continues the harder becomes their strokes. For the brilliant straight round arm drives of enormous strength and power, emulating S. H. Smith's drives at lawn tennis, only on a smaller scale, Mr Brame Hillyard, a nephew of Sir

George Newnes [*Publisher, Liberal MP, Baronet*], stands pre-eminent. Though most difficult strokes to return when they come over, the great drawback to this style of game is its uncertainty, the player losing more points generally than he makes, unless very much on his game. We will conclude this article with a reference to Mr F Good, one of the pioneers of the indiarubber-lined racquets [TTH 87/14-16]. Mr Good puts a marvellous amount of top spin on all his strokes, which means they have a slow trajectory until they touch the table, when they fly off at different directions at great pace. The unsuspecting beginner, when playing Mr Good, imagines he is receiving rather a soft return, when, much to his surprise, immediately the ball has struck the table, and just as he is preparing to hit it, it flies off at a tangent. This style of play viz., "top spin," and a lot of cut, is being much cultivated now, and it is likely the forthcoming season will see great developments in it.

Dundee Evening Post

15 December 1902

AN EXCITING GAME.

Doubles in Ping-Pong Make a Lively Scene.

(By M. J. C. RITCHIE.) [*sic*]

DIFFICULTIES IN DOUBLES.

For reasons that are not very far to seek ping-pong and table tennis lend themselves much more to the singles than the doubles game. For one reason, the space of a 9 feet by 5 feet table is by some considered too restrictive even for a "single." Put "doubles" on it, and it is much more so. Again, unless there is a rule that the partners in the doubles shall play alternate strokes, there is likely to be much confusion, both players perhaps going for the same ball, and clashing. To be compelled to observe a rule like "alternate hitting" also becomes tiresome, and likely to spoil the game. For these and other reasons the possibilities of pretty play in the "doubles" game are much minimised, and it frequently deteriorates into a romp. If "doubles" come very much into popularity it is probable that tables of larger area will be brought into play for that department of the game in the same way that a larger area of the court is utilised in "doubles" at lawn tennis than for singles. However, we have seen some very good foursomes played under the existing conditions, and a doubles event was introduced into several tournaments at the conclusion of last season with considerable success, and some very exciting games were witnessed. A few hints as to how to play the game to best advantage may be useful.

After the service is delivered the game becomes general to all concerned unless "alternate" hitting is the rule, and when the ball is in play partners must leave to each other the strokes they are most qualified to take. ...

RULES FOR DOUBLES.

The Table Tennis Association has drawn up a set of rules for observance in the doubles game which are roughly as follows:—A line must be drawn down the middle of the table from end to end, half an inch wide, parallel with the sides, and termed the mid-line. ... The

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

server must stand behind the end of the table, though he need not stand within the side lines.

The server must start serving from the right hand side of the mid-line, and shall then serve alternately from the left and right of it. If the ball strikes the mid-line it is taken to have fallen into the proper court, and is a good service for either court. The server serves to his opponent who is diagonally opposite to him. The players receiving the service do so alternately. No player must receive or return a service delivered to his partner, and the order of service and striker out once arranged must be continued throughout the game. The players shall change sides after 20 points.

The above rules are specially framed for doubles; in other respects the rules that apply to singles apply to doubles also. It is advisable to have as much room round the table as can be managed. The very least should be three feet at each side of the table, and six feet at each end. ...

Dundee Evening Post **22 December 1902**

A PING-PONG PARTY.

Great Fun and Good Exercise.

(CONTRIBUTED BY M. J. C. RITCHIE.) [*sic*]

It is frequently a puzzling problem for hosts and hostesses to know what to provide with which to amuse their guests on a winter evening. For the rich naturally such a problem is far easier of solution, as expense is no object, and billiards, or whatever may be the passing fancy of the time, are all within their reach. For the middle classes, however, a satisfactory and enjoyable means of entertaining their guests is much harder to think of. Something that will amuse young and old alike, and at the same time not cost too much money, is required. To these what a god-send ping-pong must be!

To enjoy the game it is not necessary to be an expert; for it is just as fascinating when one is commencing to learn it as it is when one arrives at the adept stage. The exercise one takes at it can be regulated to one's own taste: it is consequently a game that older people may take up with pleasure. And then, after a good dinner or supper, when, perhaps, ordinarily we should be sitting half-asleep in our chairs, and consequently suffer from nightmare on retiring to bed, a good game at ping-pong gives us just the right amount of exercise to digest our meal and enable us to retire to rest and enjoy a light and refreshing sleep. As to what particular form of the game is played at a party, that depends on the number of the guests. There are singles, or the double game with its variations, or a handicap where the ages and difference in skill of the members of the party is very pronounced, all available. The idea of playing for a prize or a little souvenir of the occasion is generally very acceptable to most people; consequently, if a small tournament can be got up for the evening, it probably meets with the greatest approval.

How to Proceed.

If the party is composed of ladies or gentlemen a mixed single should be got up. The host should go round to various guests finding out those wishful to play; then, as

the evening is all the time that is available to work the tournament through, it should be arranged on the "knock-out" system, and not on the American principle of playing off in sections. ...

The Four Game.

We now come to the four game at ping-pong for an evening party, and if the game is not desired to be taken too seriously there is no doubt that a considerable amount of fun can be got out of a good mixed doubles. ... If more of a romp is desired, both players on each side can play with one racquet between them, it being imperative for each player after making a stroke to lay the racquet on the table, and the other to take it up each time. We have also heard of a game in which, after playing a stroke, each player has to run round to the opposite end of the table, and then play from there. These little variations must be looked upon quite as the light side of the game, and it must be said at once that all serious players look on them with very great disfavour (should the party contain a ping-pong champion—host and hostesses please note!). Speaking for ourselves, we think that, owing to the congested size of the space available for playing, that ping-pong lends itself much more readily to singles than it does to doubles.

The Sportsman **23 December 1902**

THE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION.

A general meeting of the Table Tennis Association will be held to-day at 7 p.m., at the Arcadian Restaurant, Queen-street, E.C., when the following proposals will be submitted: Terms [*details of terms 1 to 9 followed*] of proposed amalgamation with the Ping-pong Association passed by the Council on December 4, 1902, to be submitted to a general meeting of the Association.

London Daily News **23 December 1902**

A full list of the terms was printed, with the added comments that the meeting was to take place at a time "of peace and goodwill" and that "It is to be hoped that this arrangement will be carried out, and so ensure a stable government for the important game of Table Tennis—or, shall we say, Ping Pong."

Nottingham Evening Post **24 December 1902**

PING-PONG AND TABLE TENNIS.

[*At the above meeting*] It was resolved that the two Associations agree to amalgamate on equal terms, provided that the same can be accomplished so as to leave the united association free from trade influence. It was also decided to form a joint Committee, under an impartial chairman, to agree upon the rules of the association, the laws of the game, and to settle all matters under dispute. The title of the new association is to contain the words "ping-pong" and "table tennis": but the exact wording of the title will be left to the decision of the joint committee, whose findings each association binds itself to accept loyally. Neither association will make any change in its rules until May 1st next, and when the amalgamation is complete matches between clubs affiliated to either association may take place. [*TTC 79/17*]

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Sheffield Daily Telegraph 24 December 1902

Table Tennis Matters.

In summarising their report of the meeting, with regard to the item on there being no alterations to the laws of either body until 1st May, the point was made that it was "a rather unfortunate finding seeing that already the two bodies have sent out definitions of what is the correct service which oppose one another. It would have been better had this one point of difference been made up and one definite ruling been enunciated ere the amalgamation had become fact."

Bournemouth Daily Echo 24 December 1902

ROYALTY AND PING-PONG.

With his usual energy the Kaiser has now taken up ping-pong, and in reply to a letter accompanying the official handbook of table tennis sent him by the Table Tennis Association, has replied that he had read the work with the greatest possible interest. A similar letter was sent to her Majesty Queen Alexandra, and, in reply, the Queen stated that although she was not a player herself, she had derived much pleasure in reading about the game. These letters were read at a meeting of the Association, when arrangements were made for amalgamation with the Ping-Pong Association. It was stated that the difference between the two was only one of name and method of serving. It cannot be denied that table tennis is much more high sounding than ping-pong, and lends a dignity to the game which the latter name never would. The amalgamation was agreed to, and it was announced that a 30-guinea trophy had been given to the Association by the Imperial Table Tennis Club for competition.

Dundee Evening Post 29 December 1902

PING-PONG AT THE SWEDISH COURT.

THE CROWN PRINCE A CHAMPION PLAYER.

Other Celebrities and their Styles of Play.

(BY M. J. D. RITCHIE.) [*sic*]

To be identified with a sport as generally popular as ping-pong has been is to guarantee one's being brought into contact with all kinds and classes of society. The game was played to such a marvellous extent in home circles, where each family may be said to have had its own champion, and there was so little opportunity of publicly gauging anyone's merit, that when the first tournament was inaugurated at the Aquarium in December, 1901, an immense entry from all sorts and conditions of people was obtained, all eager to see if their reputations in club and home circles were justified when meeting in public other players of unknown form. Fortunately the organiser was familiar with lawn tennis tournaments [*Mr Ritchie was the Secretary!*], and the manner of conducting them, and applied his experience in these to ping-pong; otherwise on the opening day, when crowds of excited ladies besieged him, and later on the men, the great majority having no idea of how a tournament is conducted, and all wanting to play at once, the confusion would probably have sent him into Bedlam [*an asylum*].

Strange Racquets and Garments.

All kinds of racquets were brought along, including many strung with gut — these have quite died out now. In regard to the costumes a good deal of curiosity was manifested at first as to what style of dress the ladies would wear. Nothing at all startling was, however, seen, short skirts, similar to those in vogue at lawn tennis, being generally adopted. Amongst the men on the opening days of the tournament one or two appeared in white flannels, evidently under the impression they were going to have some severe exercise, and also possibly with the idea that a ping-pong ball would be lost sight of by their opponents against their white clothes. For probably the same reason several men appeared in evening dress, their white expanse of shirt front giving them a decided advantage over an opponent in morning dress. It was indeed eventually found necessary to veto white or light costumes, as giving an undue advantage to the wearers.

In connection with the Tournament Committee, the writer had the pleasure of meeting Mr W. Harrison. The latter gentleman was one of the earliest players of table tennis, and one of its keenest adherents. He is a member of the Cavendish Club, which is the pioneer of the many that are now to be found all over England and Scotland. Mr Harrison plays a good straightforward game at table tennis, and will not on any consideration allow himself to be beguiled into the stonewall variety. He is, or was, connected with one of the most flourishing businesses that have sprung up for supplying the best implements in connection with the game. Mr Harrison has probably done as much, if not more, than anyone to further the popularity of table tennis, and it was only on account of his connection with the business mentioned that he declined becoming chairman of the Association Council. A few words about the other members of the committee above referred to may be interesting, as there is no doubt that the championships of London tournament at the Aquarium first started the furore in ping-pong.

Early Players.

The committee under whose direction the tournament was run consisted of Messrs Harrison, C. G. Eames, E. F. Long, Alf. Petch, C. P. Dixon, and the writer. Mr C. G. Eames, a member of the Streatham Common Table Tennis Club, is an old lawn tennis player, in his day quite in the front rank, and the winner of a large number of prizes in America as well as England. He is even now a most formidable player, and has quite recently won some excellent prizes. He is also to be noted as being the father of one of the best, if not the best, lady table tennis players of the day, viz., Miss V. Eames, who gained the Ladies Challenge Bowl in the London Championships. Miss Eames is a charming young lady, inheriting her father's steadiness and uniformity of temper.

Mr E. F. Long, a member of the Chiswick Table Tennis Club, organised a tournament at Chiswick some few weeks prior to the London championships, which was, to the best of the writer's knowledge, the very first public table tennis tournament held in London [TTC 82/17-24]. Mr Long is most energetic in everything that appertains to the good of table tennis; he is an excellent player, perhaps varying on the brilliant side.

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

At the Tournaments.

A word now as to some of the personalities who entered for it may not be uninteresting—Mr Launceston Elliott, who, by-the-by has just made his debut in the profession of a “strong” man at one of the music halls, was one of the earliest entrants. Anyone who has seen Mr Elliott’s massive frame and enormous muscular development, for he has been quite the strongest amateur weight lifter in the world, will appreciate the smile that went round on the countenances of the bystanders, who quite expected to see Mr Elliott smash the ping-pong ball to pieces at his first stroke. No such thing happened, however, and if there is any special point about his game it may be said to be generally noted for its weakness. Mrs Maud Thomas, nee Maud Shackle, a very well-known lawn tennis player before she married, George Greville, C. H. Martin, C. J. Glenny, and J. M. Boucher were some of the cracks at lawn tennis who, at one time and another, entered for the tournaments held at the Aquarium. It was remarkable the number of gentlemen connected with clubs and places of entertainment who came to see the nature of the game. One of the first was Robert Newman, of the Queen’s Hall, who organised a tournament there shortly afterwards. This was a great success from the gate point of view, though the players were not equal in form to those who patronised the earlier tournaments.

Miss Constance Bantock was the winner of the ladies’ event, and Arnold Parker of the gentlemen’s. In the tournaments held at the Aquarium, both these players have not generally distinguished themselves to any great extent, though at the latter end of last season both had very much improved. Amongst other visitors, Mr Standen Triggs, the genial manager of Devonshire Park at Eastbourne, was so impressed that he got up an important tournament immediately on his return to Eastbourne. Mr Herbert Chipp, the well-known lawn tennis referee and handicapper, was one of the first visitors, as was Mr N. L. Jackson, the former manager of the Corinthian football team, and one who is as well-known in lawn tennis circles as anyone. It cannot be said that these gentlemen were favourably impressed with the game, their opinion being that the stonewall tactics of some of the players would bring about its downfall.

A Lady Fencer’s Disgust.

Miss Toupie Lowther, who is so well-known in fencing circles, and is probably one of the most athletic young ladies living, unfortunately was the witness of a terribly monotonous stone-wall game between two very safe lady players, who happened to be playing when she came in to see what the game was like, and has never recovered from the disgust which the sight caused her — she consequently does not play ping-pong. Mr C. B. Fry, the renowned football and cricket player, was also very anxious to make the acquaintance of ping-pong as being the new sport—we have not yet heard that he has taken the game up seriously.

In travelling on the Continent playing lawn tennis, the writer visited Stockholm, and was surprised to find ping-pong well established as a game amongst the upper classes. The Crown Prince of Sweden is indeed quite an enthusiast, and the writer, who had the honour of dining with that august personage several times at the houses of some mutual friends, was frequently his opponent in the after-dinner tournaments inaugurated for the entertainment of the guests, and it must be admitted was not always victorious. His Royal Highness is distinctly a strong player, and would have an excellent chance at some of the British table tennis tournaments. Herr Vallenbergis is considered the best Swedish player, and is certainly quite the equal of some of our cracks.

Bolton Evening News

31 December 1902

In its report on the recent general meeting of the Table Tennis Association, the paper even had suggestions for a name for the new body! As “the title will be one embracing the names of both these august bodies [*the PPA and TTA*]—a sort of portmanteau word. How would Tae-ping or Ten-pong do? They both have a Celestial sound.”

Biographical Notes:

Major Josiah George Ritchie (Major being his real name, not a military title!) was born in London on 18 October 1870, to parents Josiah (who at the time of the early London tournaments was Manager of the Royal Aquarium) and Elizabeth, living at The Grange, Croydon. He went on to become one of England’s most successful

lawn tennis players, reaching the round before the final at Wimbledon on several occasions in the 1900s, and winning over 100 tournaments, both at home and abroad (particularly France). He also won the Singles Gold Medal at the 1908 London Olympics, and represented Great Britain in the Davis Cup. As is so often the case, he also excelled in



other fields; as a fine gymnast, a successful rower, and an avid table tennis player. In addition to playing, he was also active on the admin front, as Secretary of the Royal Aquarium tournaments, Secretary of the All-England Table Tennis and International Games Club, and Secretary of the Table Tennis Association. He married Ethel Wolfe in late 1909, and they had one child, Richard, all living in the 1920s at Riverholme, Staines. In 1939, still at this address, he was listed as a retired Exhibition Organiser. He died on 28 February 1955.

This is the end of the look at the early years of table tennis as reported in the newspapers of the time, but the series will now continue with a few more parts covering the years that followed, up until the early 1920s. The format will be slightly different, with each year containing a selection of examples of the continuing popularity of the game.



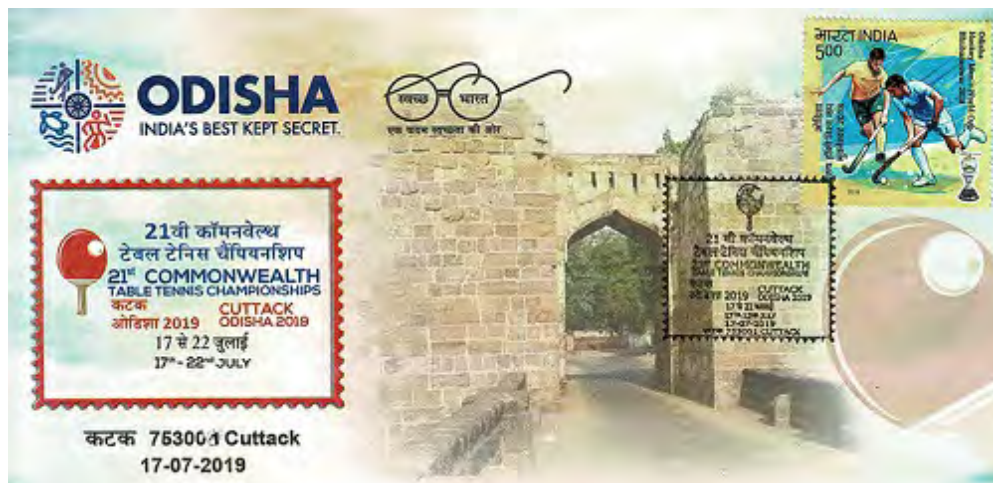
Philatelic Update



China 1961 block with error: no bottom text. Asking a huge \$9200 on ebay!



Blue meter for the Men's World Cup, scheduled for 16-18 October in Duseeldorf



Special postmark on commemorative envelope for the 21st Commonwealth Championships



Madagascar, for the Tokyo Olympic Games



Swedish special sheets with cylinder numbers 1 or 2 in lower right corners, on each sheet of 250. Issued on September 9, 2019, quantity 3000. Originally released for the China International Collection Expo in Beijing in 2013.



Red Meter from Manchester 1997 World Championships, from the Reiter collection, via Gunther Angenendt

Table Tennis Stamps - varieties and specials. Part 3.

From Hans Peter Trautmann, Germany

(For part 1 see the Table Tennis Collector No. 80, October 2016),

(For part 2 see the Table Tennis Collector No. 86, October 2018).

1. Category: World Table Tennis Championships:



Normal stamp.



Special stamp.

Country: Romania.
 Occasion: World Table Tennis Championships
 Bucharest/ Romania 1953.
 Date: 1953, March 23.
 Special: The print / perforation is shift to the left side.



Normal stamp.

1. No white margin line on the right side of the table.

2. No white margin line on the left side of the table.

Country: Great Britain.
 Occasion: World Table Tennis Championships 1977 in Birmingham / Racket Sports.
 Date: 1977, January 1.
 Special: No white margin line on the right or the left side of the table.



Country: Germany.
 Occasion: World Table Tennis Championships 1989 in Dortmund.
 Date: 1989, February 9.
 Special: 1. With cancel "Muster" = proof.
 2. With Formnummer 1 or 2.

^{caption}
 This stamp was not valid for postage use and was given away to newspapers and stamp dealers for publishing and information. Quantity: 200 – 300 pieces.



Formnummer 1



Formnummer 2

Stamps are printed in sheets.
 A printed sheet consists of several sheets.
 The Formnummer denotes the position in the printed sheet for controls through the printer.

2. Category: European Table Tennis Championships



Print and perforation normal and centered.



Print and perforation shift to the right side and upwards.

Country: Hungary.

Occasion: European Table Tennis Championships 1958 in Budapest/Hungary

Date: 1958, August 30.

Special: Print and perforation shift to the right side and upwards.

For the variety "light red color" see the Table Tennis Collector No. 80, October 2016.

4. Category: Other varieties and specials from table tennis stamps



Print and perforation normal and centered.



Print and perforation shift to the left side.



Print and perforation shift to the right side.

Country: Nicaragua.

Occasion: World Baseball Amateur Championships 1948.

Date: 1949, July 15.

Special: The prints and perforations are shift to the left or the right side.



Normal stamp.



1. Shirt with pink color. 2. Print / perforation shifted up / downward.



Country: Soviet Union / USSR

Occasion: European Youth Championships in Leningrad.

Date: July 18, 1968.

Special: 1. Shirt of the table tennis player in pink color.
2. Print / Perforation shifted upwards /downward.



Normal stamp.



With print "SPECIMEN".

Country: North Korea.

Occasion: Sports – Table Tennis.

Date: March 10, 1974.

Please note: This stamp was not dedicated for the world table tennis championships in Sarajevo 1973!

On the left side of the stamp is printed "1973 베이징" = 1973 Beijing".

Special: With print "SPECIMEN" = proof.



Normal stamps



Postage digit crossed out =Specimen.

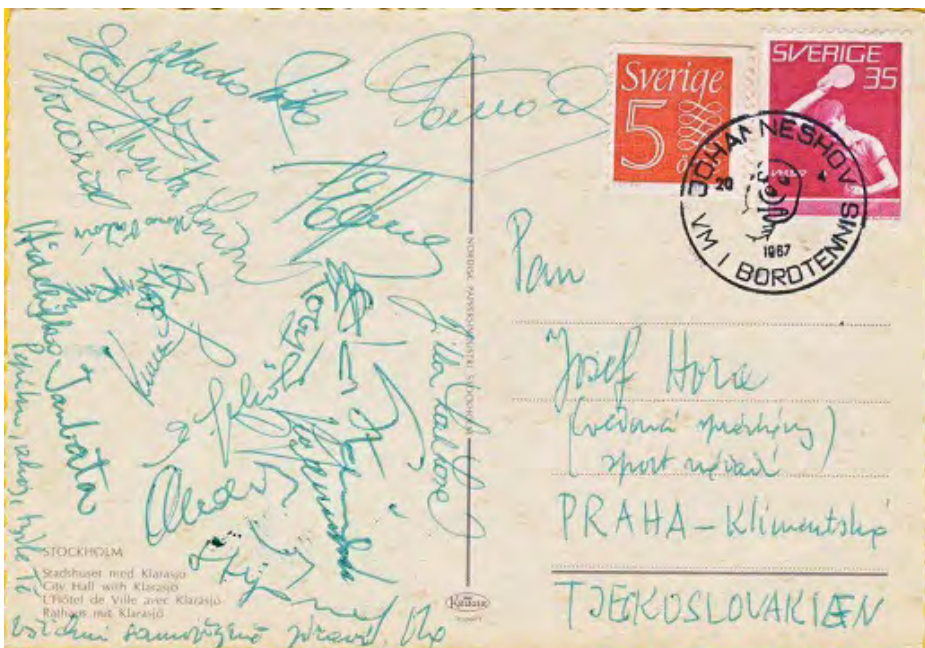
Country: Republic of China (ROC) / Taiwan.

Occasion: IPC World Table Tennis championships 2002, held in the Republic of China (ROC).

Date: August 13, 2002.

Special: Postage digit crossed out =Specimen.

Hans-Peter



Postcard from the 1967 World Championships in Stockholm, with special postmark, and many autographs that are difficult to decypher. Offered on ebay now for \$80

Auction Action



Set of 4 long handle cane rackets with single vellum sold for a strong \$465, some faults to the vellum.



Horsman's Popular game with color litho, 2x vellum drum rackets with short handles, with rules and 9 balls. \$400



Fine pyrographic wood bat with flag for the University of Pennsylvania. Sold for a bargain \$65. Wood-burned bats were also made for other 'ivy league' schools, such as Harvard, Yale, Columbia ... How did I miss that auction?!



Pair of pyrographic bats, lady swinging battledore, other side with cross-hatched net pattern. Sold for \$125



A trio of pyro bats, sold for only \$39.

I think the prices have dropped on pyro bats, because hasty sellers set a low Buy it Now price, not realizing that such bats can yield hefty prices in competitive auctions, as we have seen in the past.

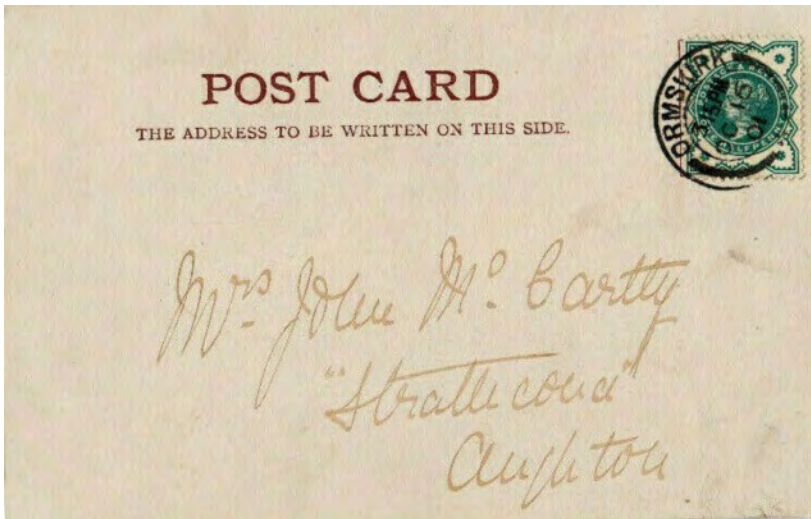
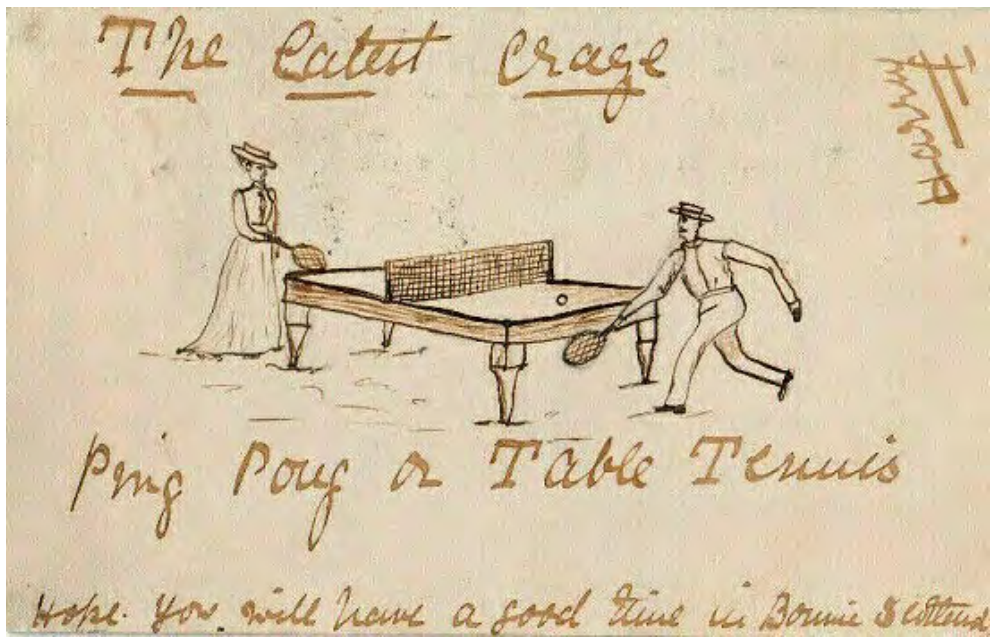


Pair of vellum drum rackets with nicely trimmed handles, size 2. Sold for 75 GBP

This number 4 size vellum drum racket sold for only 30GBP.



Milton Bradley Royal Game of Table Tennis, plain wood bats, wide mesh net. \$95



Hand-drawn postcard sent in 1901.



Early picture postcard, from a set of 6 Premier Series No. 2020. This card sold for 33GBP



2 early picture postcards from the 'Ping Pong in Fairyland set of 6. Above, card No. II, sold for a respectable 64GBP in a competitive auction. Below, card No. VI (usually the most difficult to find of the 6 cards), sold for only 6 GBP as a Buy it Now !





Pair of handmade bats with unusual bulbous anatomic grips \$50



Popular English Game of Table Tennis, 3 bats. \$50



1938 World Championships pin
37 GBP



Hand-made Bilroy blade with custom trigger grip \$56



Schall Ping Pong Ball ice cream mold. \$24



Jaques Denis Neale hardbat 66GBP. Denis is an English international player who won Bronze in the 1969 World Championship Mixed Doubles, 2 English Opens, and 6-time national Singles champion.



Early Banda Waldner 20GBP



Bat signed by famed Tennis star Anna Kournikova. Listed at \$30 on ebay
Signed during a USO tour of American bases in Iraq in 2009



Set of 6 movie posters for a film about the 1961 World Championships in Beijing. \$70 The film was produced in the 1970s.



Complete set of 'Ping Pong' Japanese Manga booklets, published in 1996. \$55





We have seen this 1949 piece before, but it's worth another look. Some interesting points are made: Table Tennis is strenuous and scientific ... with the advent of the rubber-faced racket, 1902, the game became a sport instead of a fad. Science, skill and not power is the keynote of this game - this comment was made before the sponge bat took over the game. Science and skill, for sure, but Power is a big part of the modern game. Interesting about practicing one's strokes in front of a mirror - is that practiced now?

Leonardo Cantarelli

BIRIBA:

Contos e causos de uma lenda do esporte brasileiro e do tênis de mesa mundial



Always a great pleasure to announce a new book in the Table Tennis literature. Leonardo Cantarelli (BRA) has compiled a biography and testimonial to **Ubiraci Rodrigues da Costa**, affectionally known as Biriba. He had some sensational results at a young age, for example in 1958 he defeated Toshiaki Tanaka and Ichiro Ogimura, both World Singles Champions. Then at the 1961 World Championships in Beijing, he beat the defending World Singles Champ Rong Guotuan ! Biriba reached number 19 in the World Rankings in 1961. He also had a very successful racket contract with Butterfly. Congratulations to Biriba for a great Table Tennis career, and to Leonardo Cantarelli for preserving the history of this legendary player !
NB: the book is in Portuguese.

Collector Directory

Günther Angenendt ebay
Langacker 10a 44869 Bochum, Germany
+49-2327-77117 ttanpp@gmx.de
Pre-war World Ch Programs; all Ttitems
German boxed sets & bats; TT pins

Jorge Arango jharango@une.net.co
Cl. 10 No. 25-103 Ap.116 Medellin Columbia
Philatelic & general TT items

Michael L. Babuin, PhD USA
PO Box 3401 Cary N,c. 27519
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Pre-1905 books, old film copies, programs

Oliver Born Germany
born4TT@freenet.de www.old-butterfly.de
Old Butterfly rackets, especially Korpa

Keith Bowler In Memoriam

Fabrice Chantriaux France
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Postcards, posters, old papers on TT

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Ron Crayden (ENG) in Memoriam

Andre Demeure (BEL) in Memoriam

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phonecards, tickets, stickers, W.C. Programs

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ephemera, memorabilia

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Historic films,classic era hardbats, old books

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(Guest, organizer, player, press, etc)

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+44 (0) 1789 269352 Philately

Russ Hamilton Arkansas, USA
J.russ.hamilton@gmail.com 214-673-6164
C.1890-1902 vintage sets, books & unusual
items

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Chuck Hoey Curator, ITTF Museum
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Switzerland museum@ittfmail.com
Art bats, unusual bats, historic photos,
Important medals, museum quality items

Martin Holland mjh44now@yahoo.co.uk
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Rolf Jaeger USA In Memoriam

Dean Johnson USA
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errors, postmarks, meters, FDCs, specimens

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Newspapers, score-lists, books, posters ...

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Phonecards, stickers

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Kevin Lau USA kevinlennis@yahoo.com
Philatelic, pins, coins, memorabilia, souvenir
& decorative items

Collector Directory

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VIA DEI FAGGI 16
I-60018 MARINA DI MONTEMARCIANO
Stamps, FDC, special postmarks, varieties

Caron Leff Ft. Myers, FL USA
csleff@aol.com Table Tennis pins

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1 résidence des Hauts de Villebon 91140
Villebon-sur-Yvette stanfl54-hardbat@yahoo.fr
Vintage bats (esp hardbats), vintage sets
<http://raquettes-collection.blog4ever.com>

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