

94

# Table Tennis History Journal

June  
2021

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

## History of U.S. Table Tennis

Vol. V: 1971-1972

*The "Ping-Pong Diplomacy" Years: "...please, write the truth  
as best you can. Or at least the little lies that are true."*

BY TIM BOGGAN

USATT HISTORIAN



Tim Boggan's book on Ping Pong Diplomacy  
Volume V in his impressive series on US Table Tennis History

# Table Tennis History Journal



## No. 94

### June 2021

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#### Publishing Schedule:

**June 1** Submit articles by **May 15**  
**Oct 1** Submit articles by **Sep 15**  
**Feb 1** Submit articles by **Jan 15**

## From the Editor

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 94<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Table Tennis History Journal*. We are fast approaching the 100<sup>th</sup> centenary edition!

We begin this edition with a salute to ***Ping Pong Diplomacy*** on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Checkout the Back Page for an exciting announcement of a new biography of legendary **Angelica Rozeanu**

**Fabio** has found another fine array of interesting and rare items, and we are grateful for his sharing with us. **Alan Duke (ENG)** continues his series on early newspaper articles, also a piece about early books and the **TAB-TEN** craze. **Jorge Arango (COL)** begins a new series, focusing on children's games during the Ping Pong era. **Bruno Lancon (FRA)** reports on his discovery of another fine **Barna** boxed set by Ludarva.

We also look at a German article from 1901, with text mentioning an 1899 tournament held in Berlin, and the illustrated pages of a 1902 Japanese booklet on Ping Pong, sent by **Jota Ito (JPN)**. **Auction Action** reports on recent trends, with some surprising discoveries and prices.

Hope you enjoy the new issue. Feedback always welcomed. Next edition scheduled for **October 1, 2021**. Please send any inputs by September 15.

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

#### *On the Covers:*

Volume V of **Tim Boggan's** monumental series of books (23 and counting!) on the History of U.S. Table Tennis graces our front cover. Volume V is devoted to the story of Ping Pong Diplomacy, as personally experienced by Tim, a member of the US delegation to the World Championships in Nagoya, and for the historic tour of China after the Worlds. Now we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy. Our back cover features **Angelica Rozeanu**, who won a record 6 consecutive World Singles Championships. A new biography will soon be published, & this will be a must read.

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## PING PONG DIPLOMACY

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

by Chuck Hoey

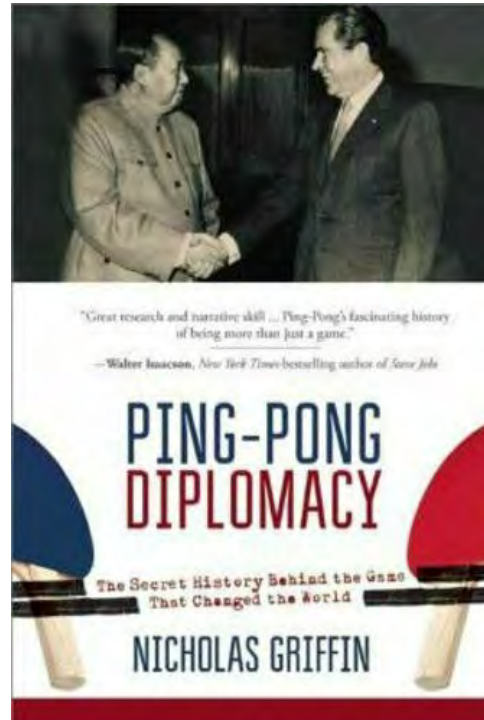


Our Cover story focuses on the cultural/political/sports phenomenon popularly referred to as "Ping Pong Diplomacy", and this year its 50th anniversary. We are fortunate that preeminent historian Tim Boggan (USA) was there, experiencing every moment firsthand. From the World Championships in Nagoya 1971, to the historic tour of China afterwards; from the handshake with Premier Zhou Enlai, to the matches, and of course the ceremonies and banquets.

So much has been written about these happenings, mostly focusing on the "trigger" event of American hippie Glenn Cowan 'accidentally' boarding the Chinese team bus, and the subsequent exchange of gifts with 3-time World Singles Champion Zhuang Zedong, followed by the sudden invitation to go to China for a tour and some 'friendship first, competition second' Table Tennis matches.

But was it an accidental boarding of the bus? Both Tim Boggan and Nicholas Griffin, author of another well-researched book on Ping Pong Diplomacy, report that Glenn Cowan, in flamboyant dress and long hair, was waved an invitation to board that bus. How to explain that, given the strict rules the Chinese were given by Beijing: "Americans could be greeted politely, but they were the only country at the World Championships with whom the Chinese players shouldn't shake hands". (Griffin p.189).

Less well known are the many years of contact with the Chinese that set the stage for this to happen. The first ITTF Chairman/President, Hon. Ivor Montagu, made several trips to China, first to negotiate their becoming an ITTF member (1953), then to arrange for Beijing to host the 1961 World Championships.



One of at least 3 different covers on the book by Nicholas Griffin.

Roy Evans (WAL), the 2nd ITTF President, was invited by Premier Zhou Enlai to stop in Beijing on his way to Nagoya in 1971, to discuss China's participation in the 1971 World Championships. Evans claimed that "the best thing Zhou could do to show that China was now friendly to the rest of the Table Tennis world would be to invite western teams back through Beijing after Nagoya." (Griffin p.176). Two-time World Singles Champion Ichiro Ogimura (JPN), who became the 3rd ITTF President in 1987, also had contact with the Chinese, recommending in 1969 that China's "best opportunity lies in opening the door to the international community through the sport of Table Tennis". (Griffin p.173)

There were several major Chinese political concerns, mainly the Taiwan two Chinas problem & the US presence there, but also the Vietnam conflict, and troubles along their border with Russia. Mayumi Itoh, in her book about Koji Goto stated that Premier Zhou Enlai saw an opportunity and hinted that a sudden improvement in Sino-US relations was possible. American President Richard Nixon was thinking along the same lines as early as 1967. Pete Millwood, in his article for HistoryToday, reported that "A series of ambassadorial-level negotiations between China and the US occurred from 1955 until 1970 in Geneva and Warsaw, with 136 meetings taking place."

So there were many contacts, but would possibilities blossom into realities? Not yet, as Boggan describes the situation with 'Miss Ping' Leah Neuberger (USA), 1956 World Mixed Doubles Champion, who was traveling with the Canadian team. When the team received their invitation to visit China, they asked about Miss Ping, and a Chinese official said that no American would be allowed into China. This was the day before the end of the World Championships. That changed the very next day, after "further word from Peking that now not only would Mrs. Neuberger be allowed into China but that an invitation was being extended to the whole American Team." (Boggan p. 49).

Why the sudden change? Because there was so much international media coverage of Glenn Cowan's encounter with Zhuang Zedong that it became politically expedient to invite the Americans, and this was approved by Chairman Mao himself. The rest is well known. After the Americans' well publicized tour of China (the American team received most of the attention, but teams from Canada, Colombia, England and Nigeria were also invited to tour China), Nixon's National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger secretly met in July 1971 with Mao and Zhou Enlai, and Nixon's travel to Beijing to meet with Chairman Mao was arranged for February 1972. The Chinese also sent their Table Tennis team to tour America in 1972, and there was a special ceremony with Nixon at the White House. Tim Boggan gives a vivid account of all this in his Volume V. Thank you Tim!



Unified Korea flag at the 1991 World Championships

I attended the match between the Chinese and American teams at the University of Maryland in '72, quite a spectacle in the packed Cole Field House, but clearly 'Friendship First, Competition Second' in spirit. There have been two other major episodes of 'Ping Pong Diplomacy': in 1991, at the World Championships in Chiba, Japan, the North and South Koreans played under one Unified Korea flag, and they dramatically won the Corbillon Cup for the Women's Team Championships. I was there, invited by Ogimura to stage a museum exhibition, and can personally attest that the roar of the crowd when the Unified Korea Team played was deafening! Then at the 2018 World Team Championships in Halmstad, Sweden, the two Koreas in the Women's Teams were to play each other in the Quarterfinals. But they did not want to compete this way, and their request to advance to the semifinals as a Unified Korea team was granted after some diplomacy with officials.

With a broader scope there is the Peace and Sport movement, under the patronage of Prince Albert II of Monaco. The organization "puts sport and its values at the heart of local development projects conducted within communities in crisis around the world." The ITTF has won Peace and Sport awards for its programs.

While the 'Ping Pong Diplomacy' phenomenon is usually associated with the above specific events, I like to think that all of the international tournaments in our sport are a form of diplomacy. Representatives from different countries can meet in less formal settings. Lifetime friendships are formed at these events, by the players and officials. The Swaythling Club International (SCI) was formed along this concept, at the 1967 World Championships. Trophies and titles must always be claimed, but the reality is that Table Tennis, and all who love our sport, are the true winners.





Shakehands friendship medallion, 1972  
Side 2 shows the Statue of Liberty and  
the Great Wall



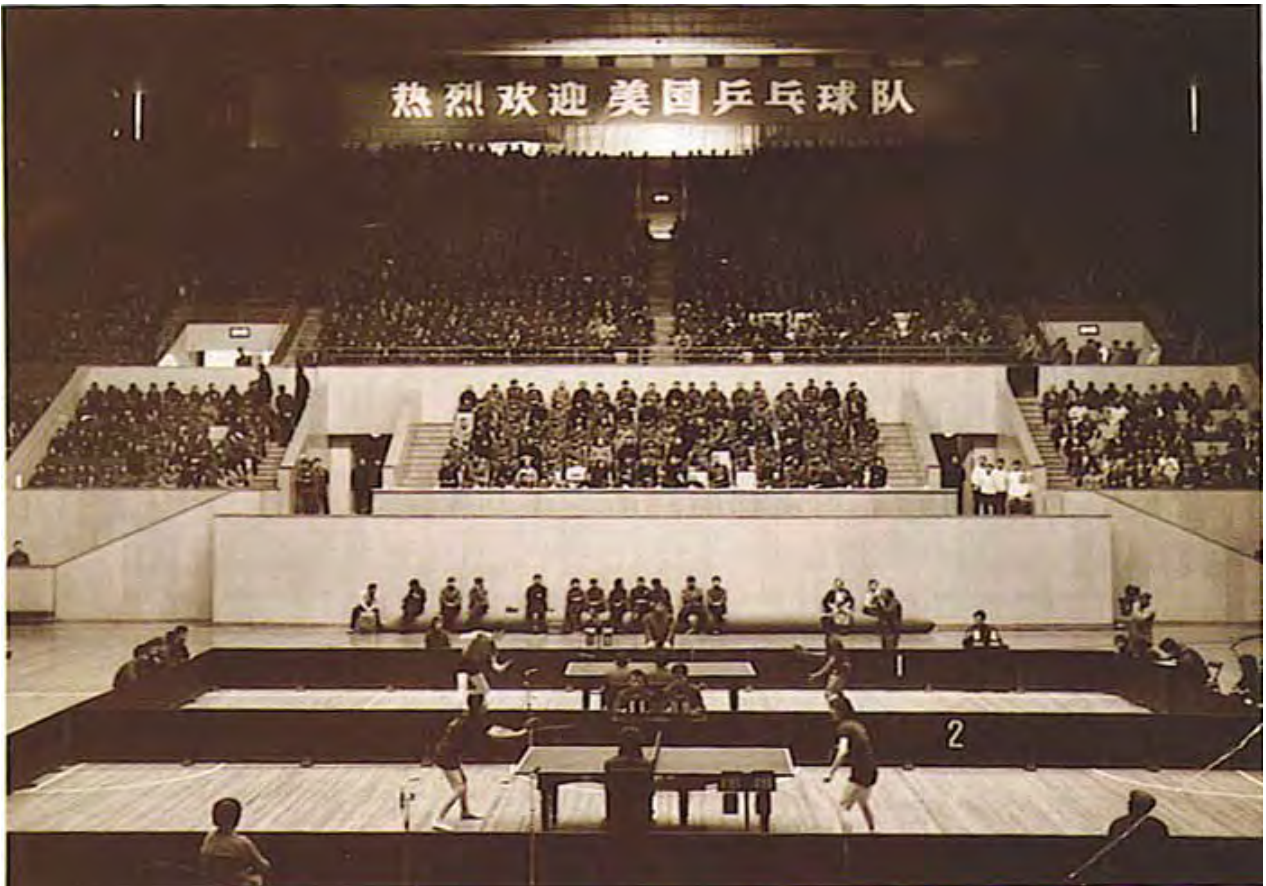
Pin commemorating Nixon's historic  
visit to China in 1972



The American delegation with Premier Zhou Enlai



Tim Boggan meets Premier Zhou Enlai



Scene from one of the match venues in China. Friendship First, Competition Second



Above: Signed racket from the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Ping Pong Diplomacy  
Below: Set of 3 balls commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy

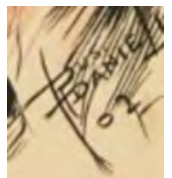






Copyright 1902 by Taber Prang Art Co Springfield, Mass.

These delightful color lithographs were done by Rus Daniell in 1902 and printed by the Taber Prang Art Co. Louis Prang (1824-1909) was an American pioneer in color lithography. In 1897 he merged with Taber Art to form the Taber Prang Art Company, which operated out of Springfield, Massachusetts until 1934. The prints are impressively large at 26 inches (66 cm, with margins) width; the lady in blue dress playing is 13 inches (33cm) tall.



# *New Discoveries - Old Treasures*

## Fabio's Fabulous Finds



Painted Vellum Battledore with long handle, inscribed date 1908  
Very rare.





Pair of early French vellum rackets, one marked in penciled script 'Battle Door' the other 'Shuttle Cock'. These are more often found as strung rackets, with strings turned at every crossing. When Fabio inspected the rackets, he discovered stringing under the vellum surfaces!



Pair of vellum drum rackets with flared handles



Pair of fine wood bats with grooved surface, cork inlaid grips with knob ends.



A second boxed set of this rare early design in only a few months. Congratulations !



The set includes a pair of vellum drum rackets, the Gossima netposts with white cloth strap, rules pamphlet and 3x Globe Metal Polish balls



Above: Miniature racket made from carved bone  
Right: Netpost a la tennis, with crank to adjust the net tension.



Two pyrography wood bats



Early boxed set of 'Pon-Pon The Great New Game of Table Tennis', by the Malted Cereal Co, Burlington, Vermont. Another name for the game!



Wood bat with perforated surface. The earliest Japanese table tennis bats had similar perforations.

Fine marquetry bat





Left: Royal Game Table Tennis in wood box, with bulbous handle bats  
Above: miniature strung racket



Fine pair of Old England Brussels vellum drum rackets with short handles.



Rare thick sponge Stiga Dolinar Expander bat in original box



Swedish version of the Bergmann Popular bat



Seldom seen rare game.



An unusual bat made by Swarovski



## "Read All About It" – PART 11 (April 1922 to 1923)

by Alan Duke

*This penultimate part in the series includes the brief Table Lawn Tennis 'craze', National Championships, the Daily Mirror tournament, and the first international matches.*

### **Pall Mall Gazette**

**22 April 1922**

#### **The Latest in "Championships."**

One lives and learns. I thought ping-pong long since dead, and I received an invitation from Selfridge's to come and see the "Ping-Pong Championship of the United Kingdom" played at their premises. When I got there I discovered a lot of things.

It appears there are ping-pong clubs all over the place, and it actually has its devotees at Oxford and Cambridge. Representatives of both Universities were present yesterday. ...

#### **A Gladiatorial Struggle.**

I saw the present holder\* of the championship, Mr. J. P. Bromfield, of Luton, defend his title. He was photographed first, and then he proceeded to dispose of his opponents by means of a dinky little twist of the wrist which caused the ball to glance off the outside edge of the table before his rival could save.

There were several games going on at once, several referees [*sic*] reciting the scores at the same time, and a chorus of ejaculations from the juvenile members of the crowd. The intensity of the excitement gave me violent palpitation, and I withdrew in search of an icecream sundae.

### **Aberdeen Press**

**22 April 1922**

#### **Ping-Pong Again.**

I do not know how many of the ten million people who used to play the game on their parlour tables eighteen years ago will be surprised to learn that there is a ping-pong championship on just now. It is one of those games which had its vogue and then died out ... But there are enthusiasts who talk about a revival of the game.

The last time there was a championship tournament was in 1904\*. The holder of that title is now being challenged to-day and to-morrow. He is Mr. J. P. Blomfield [*sic*], partner in a West End firm. There is a Ping-Pong Society, and the members of it take the game seriously and scientifically. That this is so can be gathered from the fact that fifty-four people are taking part in the competition, and that Cambridge University alone is sending twenty-eight competitors.

[\* But see 1913 in this series, and TTC 67/25 and 80/23.]

### **Sheffield Daily Telegraph**

**24 April 1922**

The battle for the Ping Pong Championship of the All England Ping-Pong Association, commenced on Friday at Messrs. Selfridge's, London, and continued there on Saturday afternoon [21-22 April], was finally won by Mr A. Donaldson, the runner-up being Mr A. Carris. These are the first Ping Pong championships held since the great rage in 1904. The competitors numbered nearly 200, and

included about twelve undergraduates from Oxford and Cambridge [*numbers seem to vary!*], Mr. R. Bryan (the Kent cricketer), and Mr. O. Ramaswami, the Cambridge tennis blue, also Mr. J. P. Bromfield (Luton), the present champion of the United Kingdom, who won his place in 1904, and Mr. A. Donaldson (Sunderland), the North of England champion since 1911. Competition for the ladies' championship was very keen indeed, the final honour going to Mrs. F. Scott, who beat Mrs. McCosh. Medals were awarded to Mr. J. P. Bromfield ... and Mr. J. Lyons, who were both semi-finalists.

### **Sunderland Daily Echo**

**24 April 1922**

#### **PING-PONG.**

##### **ENGLISH ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP DONALDSON SECURES THE TITLE**

When play re-commenced on Saturday afternoon at Selfridge's, Oxford Street, London, A. Donaldson (Southwark Trinity) and D. Woodward (Southwark Congers) quickly disposed of their third round opponents. The latter then had to face Mr J. P. Bromfield (Luton), who had easily overcome his previous victims, and was beaten by three games to none. Donaldson, meanwhile, reached the semi-final and faced Mr Bromfield, who has held the Association Championship since 1904. After losing the first two games Donaldson regained command and completely dominated the Luton player. The match eventually went to the local [*local to this newspaper, that is*] by three games to two, and the final brought him further success, Mr A Carris, of the All English Club, being vanquished by 4-2. Donaldson's victory was greeted with loud and prolonged applause.

### **Luton Reporter**

**25 April 1922**

... Mr. J. J. Payne, an old county hockey player who has been of great service to various of the local [*hockey*] clubs as umpire and coach, ... is evidently fired with an enthusiasm for the building up in Luton of a winter sports club of a comprehensive and representative character, that will give it quite a unique standing in the local world of sport.

Mr. Payne's organising genius has already been reflected in the enormous success which has attended the revival of the ping pong "boom." He was founder of the new Luton Club and also the All England Ping Pong Club in London, and is the hon. secretary of the Ping Pong Association, as well as the local club ...

... The members of the Ping Pong Club have definitely decided to launch out and embrace within their scope Badminton, indoor tennis and social fixtures, and have made an offer for the use of a certain building on two nights a week, for ping pong and Badminton, and another for the same two nights, for an indoor tennis court, with the addition of a long night, say once a month, for dances.

## EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

That ping pong has come back to stay is evident, from the success that the revival has met.

With the Ping Pong Association, there are already associated 17 clubs, the largest of which is the All England club with a membership of nearly 150, while others average from 40 to 50 in strength, and Cardiff and district, Sunderland and Bristol, are affiliated for next year. ...

### Ping Pong Championships.

#### LUTON CLUB CRACK LOSES HIS TITLE

Many hundreds gathered to see the All England gents' singles ping-pong championship fought out at Selfridge's luncheon hall on Friday and Saturday evenings. This was the first time the championship has been decided since 1904, and ping-pong has never been played under more perfect conditions.

Seventy-five entries included four from the Luton Town Club, but their hopes of repeating the championship success were not realised. J. P. Bromfield, who has held the trophy since it was last competed for, disposed of all opposition with ease up to the semi-final, but met his first defeat of the season at the hands of A. Donaldson, of Sunderland, who has been the North of England champion since 1912. The Northerner's stonewalling wore Bromfield down after losing the first two games, 21-13, 21-18, and he took the last three by 21-16, 21-16, 21-14, and won the final against A. Carris, president of the All England Club, which ran to six games lasting seventy minutes. ... J. J. Payne succumbed by the odd point to M. Zeltzer, an East End crack, in the second round. ...

Luton had two representatives in the ladies' championship, for which there were fifteen entries on Saturday afternoon. Mrs. J. J. Payne was beaten by Miss Hunt, of the Lowther Club, after a very close game in the opening round. ... Mrs. Sidney McCosh .. failed to score a game against Mrs. F. Scott (All England) in the final.

The annual meeting of the Ping Pong Association is taking place at the George Hotel, [213] Strand, on Friday evening [28<sup>th</sup>; see *Accounts period* TTH 93/41].

### Liverpool Echo

27 April 1922

#### To All Ping-Pong Players.

Ping-pong players in this district will be interested to learn that a competition has been arranged, the winner of which will be entitled to call himself the open ping-pong champion of Liverpool and district. A silver challenge cup, to be held for one year, will be presented to the winner, and there will be other prizes.

### Western Daily Press

29 April 1922

London has set the fashion with a revival of "Ping Pong," and next winter it is pretty certain to spread, as other things spread, from the Metropolis to the provinces; but it will appear under the less frivolous title of "Table Tennis."

### The Times

12 June 1922

The caption to this previously reproduced photograph featuring Army officers [TTC 56/7] referred to the game as 'Table Tennis'. But it was actually Table-Lawn-Tennis, the image featuring prominently inside the box lids of sets, and in Lawn Tennis Association publications [TTC 78/14].



### The Era

14 June 1922

"Tab-Ten" Enthusiasts. [TTC 14/12-15; TTC 78/14-15]

The Adelphi Table Lawn Tennis Club at Marble Arch presented an animated appearance on Friday afternoon, when several members of the Gaiety production, "His Girl," played off a match against the members of the club. Miss Patricia Malone, a very spirited player, had bad luck in losing against Major J. F. Dwyer, O.B.E. Miss Malone, however, is already the holder of a handsome silver cup which she won in her first table lawn tennis match.

... "Tab-Ten" is subject to all the rules of lawn tennis, as to service into correct courts, returning and volleying. It has the advantage of being played on a trestle table, which can be fitted up either indoors or in the smallest garden which is not big enough for a tennis lawn.

### Acton Gazette

16 June 1922

#### THE BOOM IN TABLE LAWN TENNIS.

The boom in lawn tennis, both on grass and hard courts, has led one to think seriously whether there are sufficient courts and clubs for the thousands who wish to participate in the game.

... Again, what happens when our variable climate spites us on Saturday afternoons and Sundays by giving us a good "drencher"? It means time generally wasted waiting for the sun to come out. I have put these pertinent questions with a view to finding a suitable answer, and, fortunately, I am in a position to answer these questions, both collectively and individually, without spending many hours of hard thought or sleeplessness at nights.

My answer is, "Table lawn tennis." I can hear readers saying, "Oh! That is ping-pong." Now you never made a bigger mistake in your life. They are as different as chalk and cheese. Table lawn tennis, as its name implies, is lawn tennis on miniature courts, and is played on precisely the same lines as its bigger brother.

Although not intending to out do lawn tennis as the premier game, there are many advantages in table lawn tennis that are not to be found in the grass or hard court variety. Let me enumerate a few. To commence with, our old friend and enemy, the weather. Time and again, rain has marred our week-end enjoyment, and whilst some people may find recompense in the "pictures" or a theatre, many prefer exercise of some description, and it is a matter of a few seconds to put up a table lawn tennis court in the clubroom or home, and spend a strenuous and health-giving time, as if on the proper tennis courts.

## EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Again, the number of people who wish to learn tennis far exceed the number of courts available, and the elements of the game of lawn tennis can be learnt on table lawn tennis courts. The dimensions of these courts are such as will allow them to be placed on spare parts of the ground.

*Acton Gazette*

**23 June 1922**

### Demonstration at Acton.

Mr. H. W. Hughes, 15, Emanuel-avenue, Acton, conducted a public demonstration of table lawn tennis in the playground of Priory Schools, Acton, on Wednesday evening and those who had the opportunity of playing on these miniature courts, manufactured by Mr. D. H. E. King, Paternoster-row, E.C., found it comparatively easy to forget they were not on full-sized lawns. The courts are scale models, being exactly a ninth of the size, and they are equally convenient for singles and doubles. The scoring and rules are exactly the same as for the premier game. A further demonstration will be given this evening, at 8.

A table lawn tennis club is to be formed in Acton after the demonstration, with Mr. Hughes as manager, and he will be very pleased to send particulars on application, and to send price lists of courts and accessories.

*London Evening News*

**4 August 1922**

### Table-Lawn-Tennis.

Table-Lawn-Tennis, which had a considerable vogue last winter, promises to be even more popular during the coming months. ....

When the new council of the Table Lawn Tennis Association is formed, competitions and championships will, I understand, be run on the customary lines.—THE TWELFTH MAN.

*Hastings Observer*

**16 September 1922**

At the Blacklands Fete at the Cricket Ground on the 13<sup>th</sup>, "During the showers, the tennis players occupied themselves with the new table lawn tennis, which is becoming the latest craze in London. Three tables were set up under the shelter on the east side of the Cricket Ground, and on these miniature hard courts many games were played under lawn tennis rules. Although the game resembles the once popular ping-pong, it has advantages and distinctive features ... and patrons were numerous."

*Sheffield Daily Telegraph*

**25 August 1922**

### TABLE LAWN TENNIS.

Very soon lovers of lawn tennis will have to leave the courts and turn to indoor amusements for the most part. They need not, however, be without their tennis, for facilities are now available for table lawn tennis. This is already becoming a craze in London and elsewhere. Games are being played in clubs, hotels and inns, and will soon be established in the homes of many. Within a few months of the introduction of the game a Table Lawn Tennis Association was formed with offices at 13,

Paternoster Row, London, E.C.4, with Mr. David H. E. King as honorary secretary. Sheffield will have an opportunity of seeing this new game demonstrated to-day and to-morrow at the Builders' Exchange, when Mr. King will give a short address to illustrate the game in progress. Admission will be free and full particulars will be available concerning the purchase of equipment.

*Sheffield Daily Telegraph*

**26 August 1922**

Trade	TAB-TEN.	Mark
<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>
B	L	A
L	A	T
A	W	E
W	N	N
N	I	S
I	S	S

LONDON'S LATEST CRAZE.  
ENGLAND'S NATIONAL GAME.  
Sheffield "got it" yesterday, and "will have" it to-day.

COME AND SEE THE  
DEMONSTRATION  
AT  
THE BUILDERS' EXCHANGE,  
CROSS BURGESS STREET.  
TO-DAY, from 2 till 10 p.m.

DAVID H. E. KING, ESQ.  
(Hon. Sec. Table Lawn Tennis Association).  
will give a short address and demonstration each day.  
Do not miss this opportunity of seeing the game.

ADMISSION FREE.

*Kent & Sussex Courier*

**22 September 1922**

### MOBILE EXHIBITION OF ALL-BRITISH PRODUCTS.

This Exhibition ... is quite unique, being the first comprehensive Mobile Exhibition of All-British Goods visiting the Provinces.

MOBILE EXHIBITION  
OF ALL  
**British Products**

will visit TUNBRIDGE WELLS on Monday and Tuesday,  
SEPTEMBER 25th and 26th, at THE PUMP ROOM.

TABLE LAWN TENNIS ON MINIATURE HARD COURTS (Tournaments will be arranged during the Exhibition).

The basic principle of this Exhibition is to enable manufacturers simultaneously to approach distributor and consumer.

The Exhibition will embody every kind of commodity and labour-saving devices for the home, office and factory [including table lawn tennis].

## EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

*Kent & Sussex Courier*      **29 September 1922**

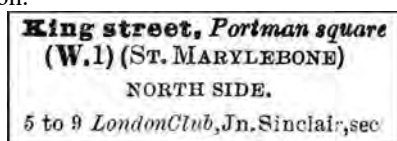
At the Helping British Industry exhibition at the Pump Room from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>, Messrs David H E King were "represented by a number of interesting exhibits of their well-known manufactures", including Tab-Ten.

*Pall Mall Gazette*      **Tuesday 10 October 1922**

### England's Table Tennis Club.

The All-England Ping Pong Club has decided to change its name for the coming season, and on Wednesday opens under the title of the All-England Table Tennis Club.

New premises have been taken at 5-9, King-street [now the section of Blandford Street west of Baker Street], Baker-street and the subscriptions for present members are to be: Ladies one guinea, and men two guineas, while 200 new members are to be admitted at the same rates of subscription.



1924 London Directory

The new building, when completed, will contain thirty full-sized billiard tables, fifty tables for table tennis, large dancing hall, ladies' and gentlemen's dressing-rooms, lounge and writing rooms. There will be first-class refreshments available all day, also evening dinner, at strictly reasonable prices. There will be a licensed bar, and the club portion of the premises will be available for members every evening during the week, Saturdays from 2 p.m. until midnight, Sundays from 3 to 10 p.m.

*Gloucester Citizen*      **10 October 1922**



*Gloucester Citizen*      **11 October 1922**

### REVIVAL OF "PING-PONG."

There are indications that a revival in ping-pong, or table tennis as it is now designated, is about to take place. It will be remembered that a great boom in the game took place some years ago, when its popularity verged on the extraordinary. Ping-pong sets could not be supplied fast enough; great quantities of these were turned out by the manufacturers, and it became the indoor game of the moment. In Gloucester the new pastime was taken up with the same enthusiasm as in other parts of the country, and it became a well-organised recreation. Tournaments were arranged, and many of these were held with successful results at the Northgate Mansions. After a short time, however, an inexplicable slump set in, and the game died down almost as quickly as it had begun. For

some years past it has not regained its position, but a few enthusiasts of the game have to some extent kept it alive.

Ping-pong sets are being retailed this year in Gloucester in increasing numbers, and a good demand is being experienced. The Y.M.C.A. Sports Committee last year made the experiment of re-introducing the game, and the two tables that were available could seldom be found vacant. ... Whether the pastime will regain its former immense popularity is a matter of conjecture; but a revival to a greater or lesser extent is confidently anticipated by many interested in the game.

*Westminster Gazette*      **12 October 1922**

### Table Tennis.

It was certain that if "ping-pong," which had a great revival of popularity last year, was to survive it would have to develop from the simple game of hitting a small ball from one side of the net to the other. There was not enough subtlety in the game to attract the enthusiast.

Now, however, "ping-pong" is passing into table tennis, with a court marked out by lines on a table, rules for the service, and various other limitations, which add at once to the interest of the game and the skill required for success at it. In this new form table tennis should obtain a long lease of popularity.

*Dundee Courier*      **16 October 1922**

### PING-PONG UP-TO-DATE.

There has recently been a distinct revival of ping-pong. A new edition of the game has been introduced, consisting of vertical boards attached to the table at each extremity of the net. Instead of the ball being returned straight over the net, as in the past, it may be struck against the boards, from which it returns to the table at all sorts of angles.

*The Sketch*      **18 October 1922**

I suppose I'm not much of a sportsman [says Jane in her 'Jottings'], but I *do* think ping-pong the only game worth playing at the moment.

And I'm not the only one.

I won't say where it was, but last weekend we all had glorious fun dashing at the little celluloid balls with our little white bats, knocking our heads together picking up balls, stepping over each other's feet (and on them), scratching each other's hands as we attempted to take the bat in a foursome, and generally enjoying ourselves more than we have done since those old nursery days when we played football with the drawing-room sofa-cushions ...

Anyhow, there is no doubt about it: ping-pong has come to stay for the autumn. Everybody is doing it. Possibly it is one last desperate attempt to avoid the backward swing of the pendulum and early Victorian manners. Or it may be merely that the wet tennis-courts out of doors have driven us to take our exercise in the evening. ...

But, best of all, I believe we ping-pong for the fun of the thing, for no reason at all.

## EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

*Birmingham Daily Gazette*

19 October 1922

### PING PONG AGAIN?

It really seems that ping-pong is destined for a revival—at least, a new All-England Table Tennis Club has been formed, and a tournament is to be held, with “some thousands of entries from all over the country.” Why should not it revive? No one would pretend that it is as fine a game as billiards; but billiards is a luxury game to a much greater extent. Table tennis produces speed, skill, and the joy of hitting a moving ball. The trouble, in the ordinary household, is that there is no table large enough (or room to install one) to make the game worth playing. On the average dining-table there is not space to develop a full repertory of strokes, and the game can never reach its highest possibilities. Like the parent sport of lawn tennis, when cramped it is spoiled.

*Liverpool Echo*

21 October 1922

### *Is Table Tennis Coming Back?*

#### THE PING PONG VOGUE; HOW THE GAME ORIGINATED AND MADE PROGRESS.

“What’s in a name!” asked Juliet. And as she didn’t want to be interrupted she went on to answer the question herself. Her conclusion was that, so long as the article was good, the name it bore did not matter. But, as sometimes happens in the case of young people, Juliet was wrong. If she had been a novelist, a revue writer, a manufacturer of toilet soap, or tooth paste, she would have been more alive to actuality, and would have realised that Romeo’s dear perfection would have been dimmed a trifle if his parents had mistakenly christened him Elijah or Nebuchadnezzar. The name of a thing or person is, of course, all important. Any commercial traveller or theatrical agent would have told her that.

Let us consider the celebrated case of ping-pong. Twenty years ago we were all playing it. There were national tournaments, All-England champions, Little Peddleton champions, and no house was held to be properly furnished which did not boast a ping-pong table. ... The game suddenly descended upon the nation out of nowhere. For a couple of years it had a frenzied vogue, and then just as suddenly it petered out and disappeared almost completely off the face of the earth. What was the cause of its rocket-like rise and fall? Its name, of course. Ping-pong pleases the ear—for a while. It haunts you like a music-hall tune for a brief season. And then, like the tune, it becomes detestable. Human nature is so fickle; what it too quickly learns to like, it just as quickly learns to loathe.

Now ping-pong is coming boldly in again, but having learnt wisdom from experience it is coming in under a new name—or rather under an old name newly appropriated. The Ping-Pong Association, which has bravely kept the game alive during all the years of change, decay, and disruption, has rechristened itself the Table Tennis Association, and under that more dignified title the pastime will march forward to the recapture of its lost position. Already it is ranged in battle order. There

are to be more national tournaments, with thousands of competitors from all over the country. Champion lawn tennis players—Suzanne Lenglen and B. C. Norton among the number—have been recruited into the realm; Oxford and Cambridge are to engage in inter-’varsity contests; new clubs are springing up everywhere, and old clubs are moving into larger premises. A new spirit is at work in the country. By Christmas we shall all be at it again. ...

It is said that the best players of ping-pong—ahem, table tennis—come from the North, because we have been a little more constant in our devotion to the game during the years of its adversity. Why this should be, heaven only knows, but that it is so seems credible, as it is the Southerners themselves who say so. Perhaps it is because of those qualities of energy and endurance which are the proud heritage of the hardy North. Or it may be that we are less sensitive to the ridiculousness of names than they are in the South. People who can continue to thrive and be happy in such places as Boggart Hole Clough [Manchester] and Chowbent [Lancashire] are not likely to be deterred from a pastime they enjoy because it has a silly title. Anyhow, there are certainly some first-rate players in the Northern Counties. The present champion is Mr. Donald [*sic*], a school teacher, of Sunderland, and the Liverpool Boys’ Club claim to have produced some of the cleverest juvenile exponents in the country. ...

ALLEN LYNN.

*Gloucester Citizen*

31 October 1922



*Birmingham Daily Gazette*

3 November 1922

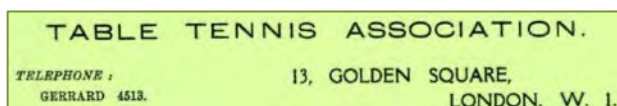
### PING PONG

#### GAME TO BE GIVEN MORE DIGNIFIED TITLE

One of the results of the new boom in table tennis is the decision by the governing body of the game to discard the former name of “ping pong” for a new and more dignified title. This decision was reached at an extraordinary general meeting of the Ping Pong Association held yesterday in London.

The chief points raised against the title of “ping pong” were:—

- (1) That it was a registered trade-mark giving the proprietors a strangle-hold on the game; and
- (2) That it was a flippant and undignified name giving no indication of the speed, accuracy, skill, and stamina required by its competent exponents.



## EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

*Western Mail*

8 November 1922

### TABLE LAWN TENNIS AT CARDIFF.

The boom in table lawn tennis—or tab-ten, as the game is now popularly called—has been phenomenal in its growth. The advent of the game in Cardiff should be welcomed, because it is played under the identical rules of the parent game, and it is anticipated that a very large number of Cardiffians will take the opportunity of not only seeing this new national game played at Messrs. Cross Brothers (Limited) show-rooms, 3 and 4, St. Mary-street, Cardiff, but will participate in the open tournament to be played during the coming week, when a prize will be offered to the local champion. Full particulars will be found in the advertisement column.

**CARDIFF**  
**TABLE LAWN TENNIS WEEK**  
**LAWN TENNIS**  
**TOURNAMENT**  
ON MINIATURE HARD COURTS.  
DEMONSTRATIONS DAILY, 10–6 p.m.  
Commencing WEDNESDAY, the 8th NOVEMBER, in  
THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT,  
**CROSS BROS., LTD., Church Street.**  
FIVE POUNDS PRESENTED TO THE FIRST LADY OR GENTLEMAN  
WHO CAN WIN FIVE STRAIGHT SETS TO MR. DAVID H. E. KING.  
For Particulars and Conditions see This Week's "WELSH PICTORIAL"

**WANTED, Young Ladies to Demonstrate "Tab-Ten," Table Lawn Tennis; preference given to Lawn Tennis Players.—Apply 9.30 to 1 Wednesday, Cross Bros., Ltd.**

*Sheffield Daily Independent*

9 November 1922

### TABLE TENNIS.

#### INTERNATIONAL MATCHES TO BE ARRANGED.

Ping pong, the game that created such a terrific craze nearly 20 years ago, is to die, and this wonderful indoor game is henceforth to be known throughout the country by the more dignified and popular title of "Table Tennis." Such was the decision almost unanimously agreed upon at the meeting of the Ping Pong Association at the George Hotel, Strand.

The chief reasons advanced for the change were that "ping pong" being a registered trade name, the proprietors held a stranglehold on the game, on the publication of the rules of the game, and even on the name of the game itself.

The secretary reported that a member of the executive, a representative of the firm holding the monopoly of the registered trade name "Ping Pong," had sent out broadcast circulars asking for proxy votes, but being unauthorised the meeting ruled same out of order.

A new Table Tennis Association has been started, with offices at 13, Golden Square, London, W., and it is the first time the game has been controlled by one supreme body not having the taint of trade influence. The secretary of the defunct body, and practically the whole of the executive, take office on the new Association.

The boom that is taking place in the game is reflected by the arranging of an International match, Wales v. England, shortly, and a great effort is being made to internationalise this indoor sport. New clubs and leagues are being formed every day, tennis clubs are installing the game in their pavilions, and Badminton and social clubs are doing likewise.

Jack Hobbs and Andy Ducat, the International cricketers and footballer, who are both excellent players, were filmed by the Pathe Freres slow-motion process the other day, the Hon. I. G. S. Montagu, the Cambridge University secretary, acting as referee.

*Bedford Times*

10 November 1922

**PING PONG**  
AND  
**TABLE TENNIS**  
**REVIVAL**

COMPLETE SETS :  
4 6 6- 8 6 12/6 13 6 15/6  
BA'S 9d. 1/ 1/3 1/6 2/- 2/6 each  
POSTS per pair 1 6 1/9 2/3 2/6 3/6  
NETS from 1/- RULES 3d. each  
BALLS 3d. & 4d each, 2 9 3/9 doz.  
A splendid indoor game for Winter evenings.

**HAGUE'S Sports House**  
2, Mill Street, Bedford

*Gloucester Citizen*

18 November 1922

### Table Tennis.

#### SLOW-MOTION FILM OF AN INTERESTING GAME.

... In the Pathe Pictorial an interesting slow-motion film has been made of this game and depicts Jack Hobbs, the well-known cricketer, and Andy Ducat, the famous footballer, enjoying a game. When the film is shown at the ordinary pace it can easily be seen that it requires plenty of practice and a very quick eye to succeed at the game, so that it should provide excellent opportunities for such people as Hobbs and Ducat to "keep their eye in." In the slow-motion portion which retards the human movement ten times less than normal the flight of the ball is clearly shown, while the clean way in which the participants return the ball shows that they are leading exponents. [TTC 57/7]

*Western Mail*

30 November 1922

### YOU MAY BE GLAD OF A GAME.

Another gift which may ... serve to enliven the family, not lone at Christmas, but all the winter through, is the table lawn tennis set, which I see is referred to nowadays

## EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

as “England’s New National Game.” The standard model court measures 8ft. 8in. by 4ft. and can be used either on one’s own table or with trestle supports sold to fit it. Bats with patent grooved faces, a net with an elastic band to keep it taut, and brass posts and clamps are obtainable in a variety of qualities and prices. The game is played under the usual lawn tennis rules, and service, volley, and scoring are identical.

*South Wales Gazette*

**15 December 1922**

### TABLE TENNIS BOOM.

By A. F. Carris, President of the All-England Table Tennis Club.

This wonderful indoor sport, which created such a terrific craze nearly 20 years ago, is again having a tremendous revival, and London is already wildly excited. There are already nearly 200 clubs in London alone, and there is hardly a town in Great Britain where the game is not being taken up rapidly. Really, this is not surprising, as it is practically the only ball game giving physical exercise that can be played in such a small area.

...There are already table tennis associations in Sunderland, Manchester, Liverpool, South Shields, Birmingham, Nottingham, Luton, Plymouth, Belfast, Dublin and many other large towns, and approximately 1,000 clubs have already been formed. An international match has already been arranged between England and Wales, to be played at Cardiff [*although it doesn't appear to have taken place*]. Further, efforts are being made by the new governing body to internationalise this indoor sport—the game is being played at present in Spain, France, India, America, Australia, South Africa, and the Straits Settlements.

The “Daily Mirror” is organising an all-British Competition for ladies and gentlemen in aid of that famous institution, the National Institute for the Blind. Motor-cars, motor-cycles, cups and medals will be given as prizes, and the number of entries already received is a clear sign that the boom is on us, and we suppose that ere Christmas is reached we shall all be at it again as in the good old days. My motto is “Play table tennis and get the nice old pre-war feeling.” [Various contact addresses for “registration forms and full particulars” were given in different local newspapers.]

*Belfast Telegraph*

**18 December 1922**

### TABLE TENNIS REVIVAL.

“Table tennis is regaining with giant strides a large measure of the popularity it once enjoyed,” said Mr. Austin Carris, president of the All-England Table-Tennis Club, to a “Daily Express” representative.

The present revival, which began last winter, has not yet rivalled the boom years of 1900 to 1903, when the game had between five and ten million enthusiasts, but indications are that it may. ... Many of the large stores have opened free practice centres. Some are organising tournaments and competitions. The hotels, too, have been quick to detect the revival and table-tennis

tournaments are to be a feature of many of their Christmas programmes.

Bournemouth already has its table-tennis teas, and London is shortly to be provided with the same rival to the dansant [a tea dance]. Twenty tables are to be installed in the People’s Palace, Mile End.

1923

*Pall Mall Gazette*

**8 January 1923**

The [All-England Table Tennis] Club has now taken possession of its permanent home at 5, King-street, Baker-street, W., where twenty-two tables are available.

When completed, the club will have accommodation for thirty-four tables, in addition to which there will be billiard tables, ballrooms, reading, writing and card-rooms.

*Western Mail*

**14 February 1923**

### WELSH PING-PONG PLAYERS.

Wales will be the first country to play in the International Ping-pong Tournament arranged by the All-England Table Tennis Association, to be played on February 23 [*but see below*]. It will be the beginning of ping-pong as an international sport, for even in the 1900 boom no such big events were attempted. ... The president of the All-England Association tells me that there will be eight members in each team, and four tables kept going, while the playing proceeds. ...

*Western Morning News*

**28 February 1923**

An international table tennis match has been arranged for March 9 in London between England and Wales.

*Nottingham Journal*

**3 March 1923**

### TABLE TENNIS BROADCAST.

As a result of the extraordinary interest now being taken in table tennis, associations to govern the game have already been formed in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and the first of a series of international matches—England v. Wales—takes place on Friday next at the London Club, King-street, Baker-street, W.1. Teams of eight a side will oppose each other. Each player will play every member of the opposing team one game of 31 points up. A novel feature is that the result will be broadcasted.

**TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION.**

Hon. Sec.: J. J. PAYNE. London Office: 6, KING ST., BAKER ST., W.

*Pall Mall Gazette*

**5 March 1923**

### International Table Tennis.

...The Table Tennis Association[s] of England and Wales have been negotiating some time for home and home [*sic*; away?] international matches.

## EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

The first of these international matches has been definitely fixed up to take place on March 9, at 7.30 p.m., at the London Club. ...

The English team has not yet been definitely selected, but will probably include: Donaldson, of Sunderland (the present champion); Hollingsworth, Wednesbury (ex-champion); Bromfield, London (ex-champion); Belsten, Bristol (Bristol champion); and Messrs. Swann, Griffiths, and Woods (Manchester).

*Luton Reporter*

9 March 1923

### FIRST TABLE TENNIS INTERNATIONAL.

This newspaper's preview of the match included the information that "Mr. Bromfield, the ex-champion,...last year assisted Luton Town to win the all-England team championship."

*Western Daily Press*

10 March 1923

### TABLE-TENNIS ENTHUSIASTS.

It will probably come with something like a shock of surprise to hundreds of citizens to know that to-day [London Letters, 9 March] is one of vital moment in the world of ping-pong—or to give the game its more dignified title, table-tennis. London to-day, or at any rate the neighbourhood of Baker Street, where the London Club is situated, is invaded by table tennis enthusiasts from all parts of the British Isles, the magnet being the first International ping-pong match. All the champions appear to be present—the all-England champion who is a schoolmaster and hails from Wearside, the champion of Bristol, the champion of the Midlands, two Manchester champions, and a whole team of Welsh champions from Cardiff and Barry and other Welsh towns. The Welshmen are to play the English team to-night and they are prancing about arrayed in all the glory of Royal Blue blazers wearing the Prince of Wales feathers embroidered over their hearts. Altogether a great day for ping-pong. But one wonders what proportion of the sport loving population of the British Isles were aware that such great events were toward.

*Westminster Gazette*

10 March 1923

### "WIMBLEDON" IN THE WEST END.

### FIRST TABLE-TENNIS INTERNATIONAL.

The whole lawn tennis atmosphere of Wimbledon was reproduced in the West End of London last night when England met Wales in the first table tennis international at the London Club, King-street, Baker-street. Enthusiasts filled the room, and applauded every fine point and beautiful stroke.

As at Wimbledon, there was a packed Central Court—or table, rather—around which was a fascinated crowd, whose heads swayed rhythmically to and fro with the rapid flight of the ball. The silence was tense during the play—these people were taking the game in deadly earnest. Only the click-click of the ball on the racket and

its metallic-sounding ring upon the table broke the silence.

### Knitted Brows.

If the spectators were fascinated, what shall be said of the players? With knitted brows and set jaws, alert and expectant, they bent themselves seriously to the game. With them it appeared a life and death struggle. With almost uncanny accuracy they sent the little white ball spinning and smashing all over the table, they cajoled it into apparently impossible corners to the discomfort of their opponents.

Sometimes it became an almost monotonous ding-dong, till it seemed that no point would ever be scored.

It was impossible to appreciate by casual watching the technique of the game.

Here, there, and everywhere flew the ball, and a whispered question drew from one's next-door neighbour a whispered admonition. Early in the evening England was leading, and the Royal Blue blazers decorated with Prince of Wales's feathers, which distinguished the Welsh team, assumed almost a shrug upon the shoulders of their wearers. ...

The most successful of the Welsh players was F. C. Andrews, who won four and lost three.

*Aberdeen Press*

10 March 1923

### ENGLAND v. WALES.

... the principality was quite outclassed, and England won by 52 games to 12. For the winners, J. P. Bromfield (London) won eight games, as also did G. W. Decker (London) and A. F. Carris (London). J. W. Swann (Manchester) won seven and lost one. G. Belsten (Bristol) won six and lost two. E. Woods (Manchester) won six and lost two. E. Tapper (London) won five and lost three. T. Hollingsworth (Wednesbury) won four and lost four.

*Western Mail*

12 March 1923

### TABLE TENNIS: ENGLAND V. WALES.



The Welsh Team.

[For a photo of the England team in the same setting see TTC 67/27.]

*Acton Gazette*

16 March 1923

The first international took place at the London Club, Baker-street, on Friday in last week, England defeating



## EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Wales by 52 events to 12. Mr. Bromfield, the ex-champion, was in brilliant form for England, and he attracted a large gathering of spectators around the centre table. Ealing enthusiasts, who were present in force, greatly admired the wonderful playing area and the organisation of the whole affair. Table tennis has undoubtedly at last attracted public support, which is essential for the success of all sport. ...

*West Lothian Courier*

16 March 1923

### "DAILY MIRROR" PING PONG COMPETITION.

—The winners of the different districts (Edinburgh Area) met at Marine Lounge, Bath Street, Portobello, on Thursday evening to decide the winner, who goes to London to compete in the finals. [Mr A D Jameson's "long reach" enabled him to beat Mr Adam Wilson 21-15, 21-15, 21-12.]

This is just one example of the reporting of the qualifying events taking place across the country, leading to the Finals on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May, as described in Steve Grant's excellent article in TTC 57, pages 6-9.

*Belfast Telegraph*

19 March 1923

At Cliftonville Y.M.C.A., Manor Street, Belfast, on Saturday, Mrs. Roberts, Ulster champion, beat Miss Watson [Dublin], Free State champion, in a table tennis championship. Mrs. Roberts thus becomes champion of Ireland, and as such will travel to London to compete in the All-Britain championships.

*The Sportsman*

7 April 1923

### LADIES' BOUT IN THE STADIUM RING.

The ring at the Stadium Club, Holborn, was the scene of a most unusual encounter on Thursday evening. The Table Tennis Association was holding its championships in a hall kindly lent by the Stadium Club, and as the eliminating rounds in the Men's Championship occupied so much time it was seen that on the championship table there would be no likelihood of deciding the ladies' final until a very late hour. A venue was sought elsewhere, and a happy suggestion was carried out of deciding this in the roped ring devoted to famous boxing encounters.

The finalists, Miss I Fenton and Miss K Berry, mounted the steps, and before a large and appreciative company fought their battle of the best three of five games. Miss K Berry won the first three games, and because of her youth received much applause. She afterwards received the championship medal at the hands of Lady Swaythling.

*The Sportsman*

13 April 1923

### TABLE TENNIS.

The All-London [*sic*] Tennis [*sic*] Tournament held at the Stadium Club, Holborn, [5-7 April] has been concluded with the following results:

LADIES' SINGLES.—Miss Berry (London) bt Miss I. Fenton (London) by three games to love. The holder,

Mrs Scott (London) was unfortunately prevented from defending her title [having been notified incorrectly of the day of her match!].

MEN'S SINGLES.—Round IV A Donaldson (Sunderland) (holder) bt P Bromfield (Luton), three games to two; Fox (London) bt Burns (London), three games to one; Nanda (India) bt Capper (London), 3-2; M Cohen (Mile End) bt Baker (London), 3-0. In the fifth round Donaldson bt Fox, 3-1, and Cohen bt Nanda, 3-1. In the final Donaldson was beaten by Cohen by three games to love.

"Truth" 22 March 1922



## THE STADIUM CLUB.

*Opening April 24.*

**London's Great Social, Luncheon and Sports Club for Naval, Military, Professional and Business Gentlemen.**

An exclusive membership will be one of this new Club's most attractive features.

The premises, ideally situated in High Holborn, are unique in extent and accommodation. They are luxuriously furnished, and include imposing Boxing and Games Arena, Luncheon and Billiard Galleries, Smoking Rooms, Lounge, etc.

*The Club will be celebrated for the most delightful and moderately priced luncheons in town, with wines, cigars, etc., at the very lowest prices.*

Membership covers seats for all Boxing, Wrestling, Fencing, and Billiard Tournaments, and participation in the Club's Pari-Mutuel, the profits of which will be allocated to the furtherance of Amateur Games, Sports, Charities, etc.

**Entrance Fee - - £2 2s.    Subscription £3 3s.  
Country Members £1 1s.    Subscription £2 2s.**

Write for Illustrated Brochure and Membership Form to the Secretary, Stadium Club, Dept. 3, 85, High Holborn, London, W.C. Telephone: Holborn 1884.

### STADIUM CLUB OPENED.

The new Stadium Club at 85, High Holborn [*next door to Hamleys* (TTH 88-89)], which has been formed for the convenience of gentlemen interested in games and sport, was opened to members at noon to-day. The premises are spacious and admirably appointed.

The number of members already exceeds a thousand.

[*Pall Mall Gazette*; 24 April 1922]

**High Holborn (W.C.1)**

NORTH SIDE.

85 Stadium Club

86 & 87 Hamley Bros. Ltd. Noah's Ark toy wareho.

1924 London Directory

## EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

*Diss Express*

**20 April 1923**

### LAWN TENNIS AT HOME.

Quite distinct to the game of ping-pong is the new "lawn tennis in the home" sport known as "Tab-Ten." In this the players enjoy all the delights of the real game, which is, in actuality, real lawn tennis in miniature.

The table ... is a replica of a lawn tennis court, with service and sidelines all marked out properly and with a net 7in. high. Volleying is, of course, allowed, while the ball is served straight on to the opponent's court alternately, just as at the summer sport. ...

It is acknowledged that as a home sporting game "Tab-Ten" has a bright future before it; in fact, there are hopes that it may become a vogue.

*Westminster Gazette*

**2 May 1923**

### TO-DAY'S ARRANGEMENTS.

Table-Tennis Championship Finals, in aid of the National Institute for the Blind, Stadium Club, 7.

*Luton Reporter*

**11 May 1923**

### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP LOST

The all-England table tennis championship will not this year come to Luton. ... Last season Luton defeated the Indian Students in the final by 17 matches to eight, but on Friday night the tables were completely turned ... when they visited the Indians' quarters in Keppell-street, London, W., to play the semi-final ... they won only four matches of the 17 that were sufficient to decide the issue.

*Gloucestershire Echo*

**18 May 1923**

### A NATIONAL CHAMPION.

Miss Kathleen Berry, the official "woman" champion of the Table Tennis Association, and who recently won the all-British table tennis women's championship trophy and the prize Calthorpe car, is the ten-year-old [*sic*]\* daughter of Mr. H. Berry, B.A., whose birthplace was Gloucester. ... Miss Berry's achievement was wonderful on account of the fact that after winning her way undefeated through the London area, a handicap of "owe five" was imposed upon her as a result of her success in the official championship of the Table Tennis Association. [\*Kathleen Mary Berry was born in 1910.]

*Birmingham Daily Gazette*

**24 May 1923**

### THE TABLE GAME.

The All England table tennis team championship was decided on Saturday evening last at the Stadium Club,

Holborn. The Birmingham City T.T. Club beat the Indian Students by thirteen matches to seven (five unfinished) in the semi-final, and beat the Ealing club in the final by fourteen matches to seven (four unfinished). The championship cup will be held for twelve months and a silver medal presented to each of the Birmingham team players Messrs. S. F. B. Lawes, H. Bowker, H. L. Morgan, W. H. Leadbetter, and S. H. Horsell (captain).

*Middlesex County Times*

**29 September 1923**

### Exhibition Match Next Thursday.

Next Thursday evening, at the Wesac Hall, an exhibition match will be held under the auspices of the Ealing and District League. Messrs. Moss Cohen (official champion), Percival Bromfield (ex-champion), Nanda (Indian champion), H. A. Bennett ("Daily Mirror" championship finalist and Ealing League), G. Ross (All-England Club), W. Tucker (Ealing League), and Mrs. McCosh (South London Lady Champion) have already promised to play. Admission by programme (6d.) at the door.

*Western Mail*

**10 December 1923**

### WALES BEATEN IN FIRST HOME INTERNATIONAL.

England beat Wales at the Queen's-hall, Cardiff, on Saturday by 134 points in the first international table tennis match played in Wales. The result was due to the fact that the English players adopt an entirely different type of game from that in vogue in Wales, and the great amount of spin they imparted to the ball with their rubber-faced racquets completely deceived the Welsh players, who are accustomed, under the rules of the Welsh Association, to play with plain wooden racquets. Nevertheless, the games proved very interesting and were greatly appreciated by the spectators, who numbered about 250.

The match served to prove conclusively the necessity for standardising the game—for international contests, at any rate—for, as it turned out, it was no test of comparative skill, but a demonstration of two different codes in opposition. Details:

WALES.	33	ENGLAND.	50
C. Mossford .....	33	J. Thompson .....	50
T. Jones .....	37	C. Hindmarch .....	50
G. T. Weaver .....	37	A. Donaldson .....	50
F. C. Andrews (cap.)	29	H. A. Bennett .....	50
A. D. Matthews ...	47	G. J. Ross .....	50
F. W. Brown .....	38	F. Woods .....	50
T. A. Schiele .....	44	M. Cohen .....	50
H. G. Geen .....	38	P. Bromfield (cap.)	50
A. Stone .....	38	C. Tanner .....	50
R. Ley .....	25	E. Emery .....	50
Total.....	366	Total.....	500

[With thanks to Colin Clemett for information from the ETTA Archives.]

# Table-Lawn-Tennis booklets

by Alan Duke

TRADE MARK "TAB-TEN" MARK  
 "C.S."  
**TABLE-LAWN-TENNIS-COURTS.**  
 (PATENT PENDING)  
**AND ACCESSORIES.**  
**DAVID H. E. KING, Ltd.**  
 13, PATERNOSTER ROW,  
 LONDON, E.C. 4

Around the time of the launch of TAB-TEN, a couple of booklets were published by its inventor, David King. The first, in 1922, is fairly well-known and has been featured previously [TTC 78/14-15]. In addition to the Rules of the new game, it included details of all the equipment marketed for the game (courts, sets, bats, accessories, etc). [For more on the game, see also TTC 14/12-15].

## TABLE-LAWN-TENNIS RULES (Series No. 4002)

Published by David H E King Ltd, 13 Paternoster Row, London, EC4.  
 16 pages, soft cover.

TRADE MARK "TAB-TEN" MARK  
**TABLE-LAWN-TENNIS ACCESSORIES.**  
 ENTIRELY BRITISH MANUFACTURE.

**BATS.**  
 "TAB-TEN" Bats are of exceptional value and are made of selected Fibreglass. All blades are reinforced through the handle, which are well finished. There are no bats on the market in that or more equal the quality of the "C.S." Table-Lawn-Tennis Bats of this price.

**NETS.**  
 "TAB-TEN" Nets are made of Cotton Twine and are of the Table-Lawn-Tennis Association regulation dimensions, 7 ft. 6 in. high by 5 in. mesh. These nets are used universally by Clubs, also for Match and Tournament Games.

**SETS.**  
 "TAB-TEN" Sets are all attractively bound in the well-known rubber-wood with bound sides. These sets are really the best and cheapest on the market. Contents as below.

1016 2 Bats, 2 Balls, Net and Posts	6/-
1017 2 Bats, 2 Balls, Net and Posts	6/-
1021 2 Bats, 2 Balls, Net and Posts	7/-
1019 2 Bats, 2 Balls, Net and Posts	7/-
1018 2 Bats, 4 Balls, Net and Posts	8/-
205 2 Bats, 2 Balls, Net and Posts	8/6
1025 2 Bats, 2 Balls, Net and Posts	8/6
1020 2 Bats, 4 Balls, Net and extended Posts	9/-
208 Containing 2 Bats (sand-paper face), 2 Balls, Net and Posts	9/6
1002 Containing 2 Bats (sand-paper face), 4 Balls, Net and extended Posts	10/6
1022 2 Bats (sand paper face), 3 "Standard" Balls, Net and extended Posts	11/-
1003 Containing 2 Bats (grooved faces), 4 Balls, Net and extended Posts	11/6
1024 2 Bats (grooved faces), 4 Balls, Net and extended Posts	12/-
1004 Containing 2 Bats (grooved faces), 6 Balls, Net and extended Posts	12/6
1015 Containing 2 Bats (grooved faces), 12 "Standard" Balls, "Standard" Net, and extended Posts	15/6
1005 Containing 4 Bats (grooved faces), 10 Balls, Net, with Elastic band, and extended Posts	17/6
1012 Containing 4 Bats (grooved faces), 8 "Standard" Balls, "Standard" Net, with Elastic band, and extended Posts, Nickel-plated fittings	21/-
1015 Containing 4 Bats (grooved faces), 22 "Standard" Balls, "Standard" Net and Posts	25/-
1030 Containing 4 Bats (grooved faces), 18 "Standard" Balls, "Standard" Net and N.P. Posts	25/-

More than 100 different sets in stock, ranging in price from 6/- to 55/- each.

**BALLS.**  
 The "TAB-TEN" Table-Lawn-Tennis Balls are the best value. They are used throughout the world and are recommended by all tennis players. See the Trade mark "TAB-TEN" on every ball.

**FOR YOUR GARDEN LAWN—A TABLE-LAWN-TENNIS COURT.**

THE "STANDARD" BAT.  
 Registered Copyright Design. Reg. No. 691805.

TRADE MARK "TAB-TEN" MARK  
**TABLE-LAWN-TENNIS**  
**BAT No. 200**  
 REGISTERED DESIGN No. 691805  
 THE STANDARD BAT FOR TABLE-LAWN-TENNIS.  
 ADOPTED BY THE TABLE-LAWN-TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The "STANDARD" BAT  
 No. 200

Officially adopted by the Table Lawn Tennis Association.  
 R.d. No. 691805.

TRADE MARK "TAB-TEN" MARK  
**TABLE-LAWN-TENNIS ACCESSORIES.**  
 ENTIRELY BRITISH MANUFACTURE.

**POSTS.**  
 From THE EVENING NEWS.  
 A WORD for Table-Lawn-Tennis. A CORRESPONDENT who has been devoted to the game for many years, writes in an interesting article something that "beats it below." He says that he has seen a Table-Lawn-Tennis Court in a City. He says that he has seen a Table-Lawn-Tennis Court in a City. He says that he has seen a Table-Lawn-Tennis Court in a City.

**TABLE-LAWN-TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP**  
 For the Championship Title & Challenge Cup  
 The Cup will be held by the Table-Lawn-Tennis Association for Annual Competition. The holder's name will be inscribed on the Cup, which will be retained in the office of the Association.

**CHALLENGE CUPS.**  
 Challenge Cups will be presented for annually under the auspices of the Table-Lawn-Tennis Association. The Cup will be held by the Winning Club for the year, and will be returned if won three years in succession. The Cup will be offered for sale and will be sold to the highest bidder. The Cup will be sold to the highest bidder. The Cup will be sold to the highest bidder.

**DO NOT ACCEPT IMITATIONS—INSIST ON "TAB-TEN"**

TRADE MARK "TAB-TEN" MARK  
**TABLE-LAWN-TENNIS-COURTS.**  
 (PATENT PENDING)  
 ENTIRELY BRITISH MANUFACTURE.

The World's Table-Lawn-Tennis Championship for the Title and Challenge Cup will be contested by an elite Court. Under the auspices of the Table-Lawn-Tennis Association.

**TABLE-LAWN-TENNIS-COURT TRESTLES.**  
 In the more modern the Court will be usually placed on the Dining-room Table. But for the summer months of the year a more convenient is to have the Court on a separate stand.

**FOR YOUR DINING-ROOM—A TABLE-LAWN-TENNIS COURT**

The second example, published in 1923, is much rarer (the front cover was shown in TTC 78/15).

**THE SCIENCE AND ART OF TABLE-LAWN-TENNIS** (Series No. 4004)

Written by F W Last; Preface by David H E King

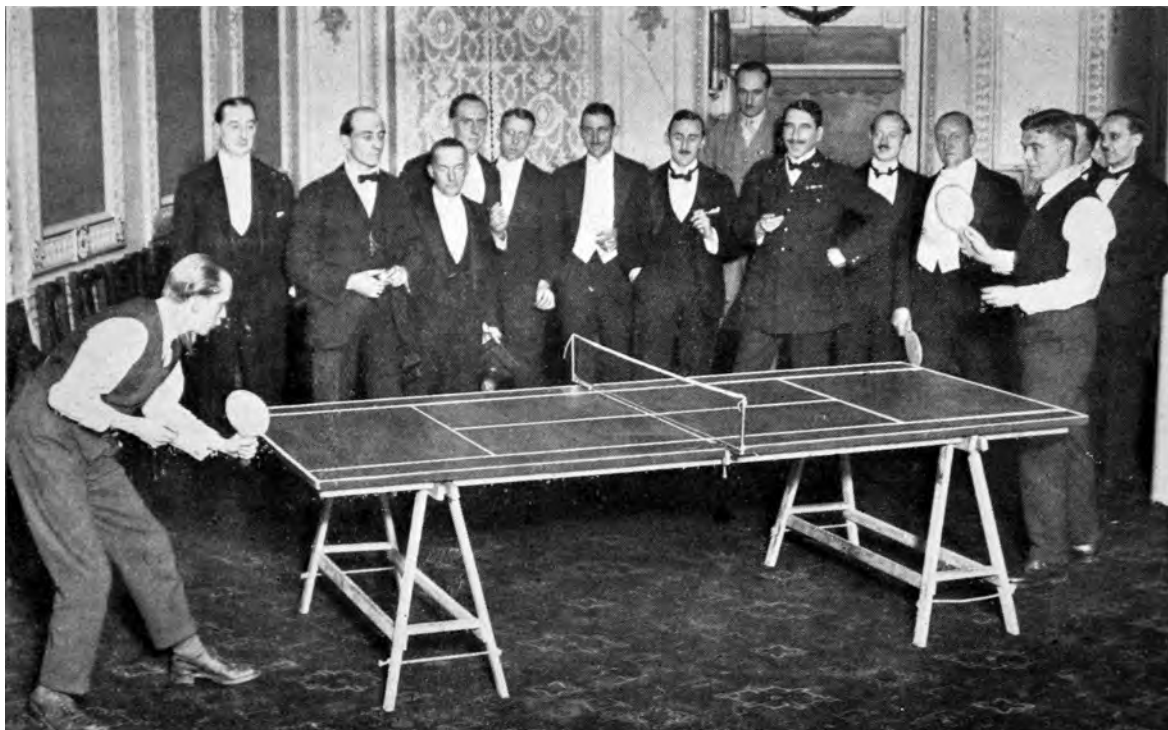
Published by David H E King Ltd, 13 Paternoster Row, London, EC4.

24 pages, soft cover.

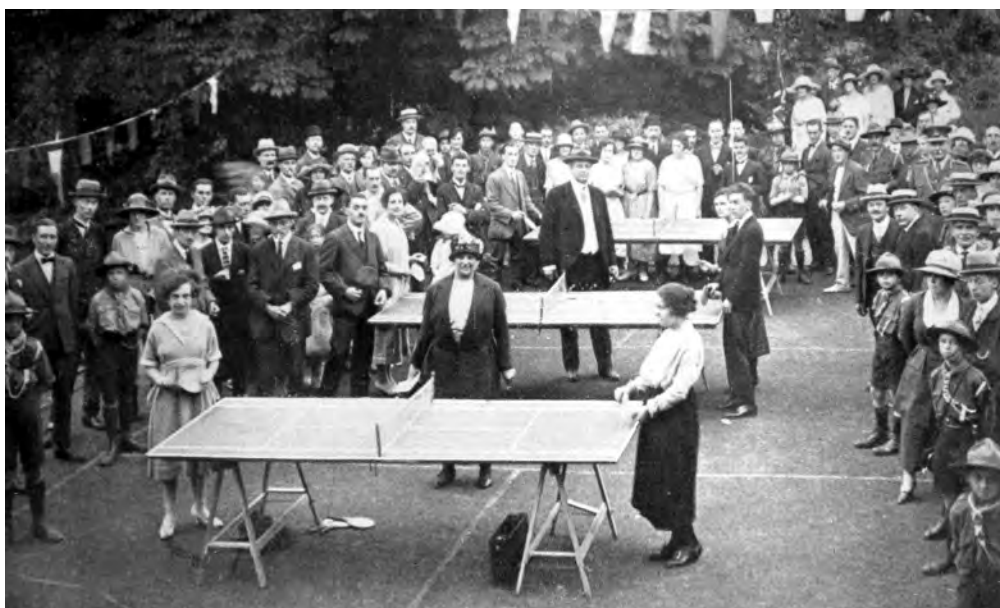
The author, F W Last, claims to be “Lawn Tennis ‘Coach’ to H.M. Queen of Spain and Infantas; Noted Player, Author, and Lecturer on the Game”, and offers tips and views on the game [see also a couple of 1920 Newspaper articles in the *Pall Mall Gazette* [TTH 93/37-38]. The booklet is profusely illustrated with photographs of personalities at play, mainly performers from theatrical productions.



“TAB-TEN.”—Table-Lawn-Tennis (*left*) at the Royal Hotel, Brighton, with famous sportsman Harry Preston and well-known Yorkshire player Alec H Heddle; and (*right*) at the Aldwych Theatre, with teams from “Tons of Money” and “The Cabaret Girl”. [On both occasions David H E King is seen acting as umpire.]



“TAB-TEN.”—Table-Lawn-Tennis at the Hotel Cecil, London. Mr. V. R. Price (Oxford Double Blue) plays a keen match with Mr. F. W. Last the well-known Lawn Tennis player [and author of the booklet]. Mr. David H. E. King, Inventor of Table-Lawn-Tennis umpires the game.



“TAB-TEN.”—Table-Lawn-Tennis as an outdoor Sport. Sir Philip Dawson, M.P. [*middle table*], presides at an inter-club contest. General Sir Travers Clark, Q.M.G., on right [*near back*]. [With both these gentlemen present at this event it is very probable that the better-known photo featuring them both, as used in box lids and advertisements (TTC 66/43) was also taken on the same occasion.]



“TAB-TEN.”—Table-Lawn-Tennis at the Little Theatre, featuring the cast of “The Nine o’clock Review”. Miss Beatrice Lillie at the Court. Miss Olive Kaye, Lady Champion of All England, an interested spectator.

David Hendrik Edgar King was born in Brixton on 8 July 1885 to parents Joseph Edmund Shepherd King (solicitor) and Mary Muskett née Yetts. He was baptised at the Roman Catholic Corpus Christi, Brixton Hill, on 31<sup>st</sup> July. In 1891 he was living at 47 Tulse Hill, Lambeth, together with his 3 elder brothers and 1 elder and 2 younger sisters. By 1901 he was at 8 Avenue Park Road, Lambeth, and then in 1911 at 53B Clapham Common Road; at the latter his occupation was given as a Commercial Traveller in the book trade.



At around the time of the launch of Tab-Ten (1921-23), he was living at 1 Briarwood Road, SW4. By 1930-31 he had re-located to 719 London Road, Marsh, High Wycombe, and in 1939 to 3 Portsmouth Road, Kingston-on-Thames, where he was listed as a Hotel Manager. He died in Bournemouth in early 1969, aged 83.

For and on behalf of  
 DAVID H. E. KING LTD  
*David H. E. King*  
 MANAGING DIRECTOR.

## New Discoveries, Old Treasures Bruno Lancon (FRA)



Our friend Bruno Lancon of France continues to find superb Barna items. He has found another well-preserved set by Ludarva, with pair of Barna bats with ivorine inserts, and an unopened packet of 6 3-crown balls. On top of all that, Bruno also found an original ad for the same set. Well done Bruno !



The bats are in mint condition!



Unopened 6-pack of French Barna 3-crown balls. The logo states that this ball was used in the 1947, 48, 50, 51 World Championships.

**TENNIS - TENNIS DE TABLE - JEUX DE PLEIN AIR - JEUX DE SOCIÉTÉ**

Raquettes ordinaires  
et de compétition  
Balles  
Poteaux et filets  
Tables  
Presses-raquettes  
Housses - raquettes  
Ensembles

**LA PLUS BELLE GAMME DE MODÈLES  
AUX MEILLEURS PRIX**

*Présentation nouvelle* (Modèles 1949)  
**QUALITÉ IMPECCABLE**

**FOIRE DE LYON**  
GROUPE 35 - BATIMENT 12  
— STANDS 10 A 12 —  
(Envoi de cartes d'acheteur  
sur demande.)



**LUDARVA,** 101, Rue Réaumur, PARIS (2<sup>e</sup>) - Téléphone : Cen. 69-76  
S.A.R.L. au Cap. de 5.000.000 de Frs 22, Rue des Francs-Bourgeois, PARIS (3<sup>e</sup>) - ARC. 13-21

Advertisement for the Ludarva Barna boxed set.  
Great companion for the actual set!



C'est ce mois-ci que doit avoir lieu le championnat du monde de ping-pong. Nous avons eu le plaisir de rencontrer à cette occasion le grand champion Barna venu reprendre contact avec les milieux pongistes français aux côtés desquels il va participer aux rencontres internationales dans quelques jours, au Vélodrome d'Hiver.

Barna! Combien, en prononçant ce nom, ne pensent plus qu'à la balle et à la raquette auxquelles il a donné son nom et oublient peut-être qu'avant le matériel il y a l'homme à l'éclatante carrière et qui, cinq années durant, fut champion du monde. Tant peut être grand et constant le succès et la renommée d'un article... Il est vrai que la marque Barna est la plus ancienne en ce qui concerne le ping-pong puisqu'elle fut créée il y a quelque quinze ans, dans le même temps que le ping-pong de « jeu » devenait « sport ». En outre, les brevets et la marque Barna sont déposés en tous pays et leur renommée couvre les cinq continents.

Alors qu'en certains domaines, il y a tant de marques qui, comme certaines fleurs, naissent, s'épanouissent et meurent en l'espace d'un jour, il est intéressant de remarquer que, depuis quinze ans, balles et raquettes Barna poursuivent leur chemin, tenant ferme leur position sur le marché — et sur les tables de match — sans avoir pour cela changé en quoi que ce soit leur forme et caractéristiques initiales.

Pour les championnats du monde 1947 qui, comme nous l'avons dit, vont se disputer dans quelques jours à Paris, c'est la balle Barna qui a été choisie, et cela méritait d'être signalé.



Durant ces dernières années, la pénurie généralisée des matériaux avait contraint les fabricants à diminuer quelque peu la qualité d'avant-guerre, suivant en cela le sort commun. Tout est mis en œuvre, nous a-t-on dit chez Ludarva (1) pour que raquettes et balles soient dès à présent égales à leur renommée et le championnat du monde 1947 en apportera l'éclatante démonstration.

H.-Ch. PAUL.

(1) Rappelons pour les détaillants nouveaux venus à la Corporation, que c'est la Maison Ludarva qui a l'exclusivité « Barna » pour la France, les colonies et les protectorats, la Belgique, la Suisse et l'Égypte.

This article from 1947 is just before world table tennis championships at Paris in 1947. Bruno has provided a summary translation:

Many people think rackets and balles when they hear Barna but they forget the brilliant career of the man.

It is true that the Barna brand is the oldest in the world of table tennis, since it was created some fifteen years ago, at the same time that table tennis went from being a "game" to a "sport". Some brands disappear but Barna is in the limelight without having changed in any way their initial form and characteristics.

Moreover, these championships will be played with Barna balls.

Because of war and shortage of materials, quality had dropped but Ludarva told that everything is being done to ensure that bats and balls are now equal to their reputation and the 1947 World Championship will be a striking demonstration of this.

Ludarva had the exclusive "Barna" rights for France, the colonies and protectorates, Belgium, Switzerland and Egypt.

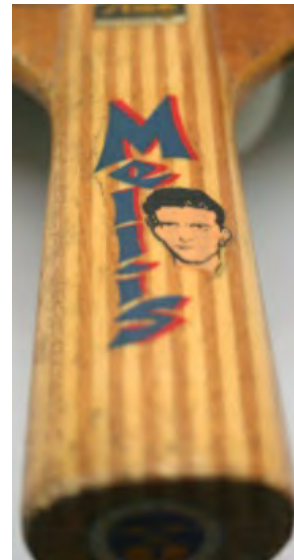




Alex Agopoff bat in very good condition. Alex (1918-2010) won two bronze medals in the Teams at the 1947 and 1950 World Championships. He also won the French nationals in Singles in 1945; Doubles: 1939, 1945, 1947; Mixed Doubles: 1939, 1946, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1957



Left: Stiga Grive Artist  
Right: Stiga Mellis



Well-preserved Rene Roothoof bat. Rene won Bronze in the Teams in the 1950 and 1953 World Championships, and a World Singles Bronze in 1952. He also won the French National singles in 1951, 1952 and 1956 as well as 5 doubles and 6 mixed doubles titles. He reached a career high No. 4 world ranking (Wikipedia)

## ANTIQUÉ CHILDREN'S GAMES

By Jorge Arango

In this article I present some antique table-tennis/ping-pong children's games and related children's images.

### OLD MAID



. RULES FOR .  
 THE GAME OF  
 ....OLD MAID....

After shuffling, deal the cards one at a time, until the cards are dealt. The players must match their cards, and when all are ready, the one next on the left of the dealer must place a pair on the table face up; if he should not have a pair, he must draw a card from the player on his left, and then try and make a pair; the player on the left proceeds in the same way, each in turn, until all the cards are matched and played excepting the odd card. The player then holding that is declared the Old Maid, and the rest of the players must ride her around the room.

Published by  
 J. OTTMANN LITHO. CO., N. Y.

The game has pairs of cards and the old maid card. Among the cards are two which correspond to Mrs. Ping Pong (on next page.). I present here the old maid card and other cards. I think the game is from the beginning of past century





## CHILD'S TEA SETS



Japanese set, ITTF museum.



Another Japanese tea set, from circa of 1920.



Loose pieces.



The figures are the same of the above set, and different from the ITTF Museum set.

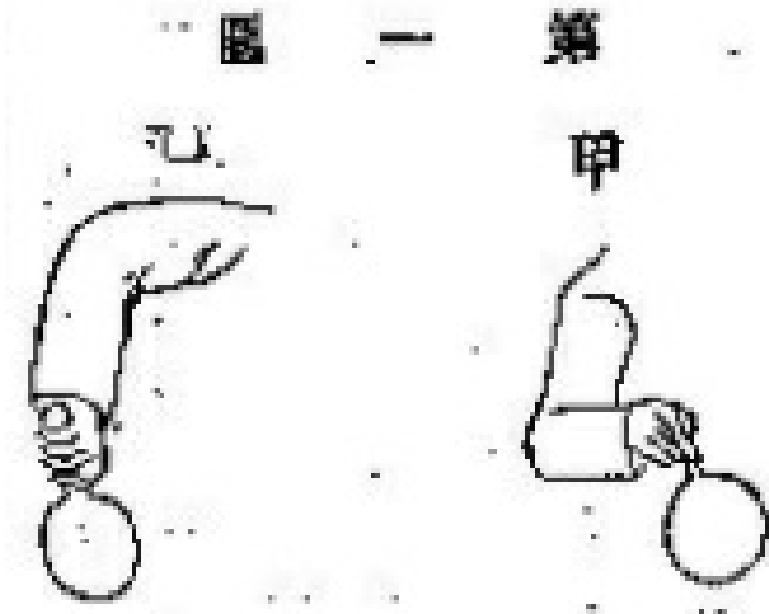
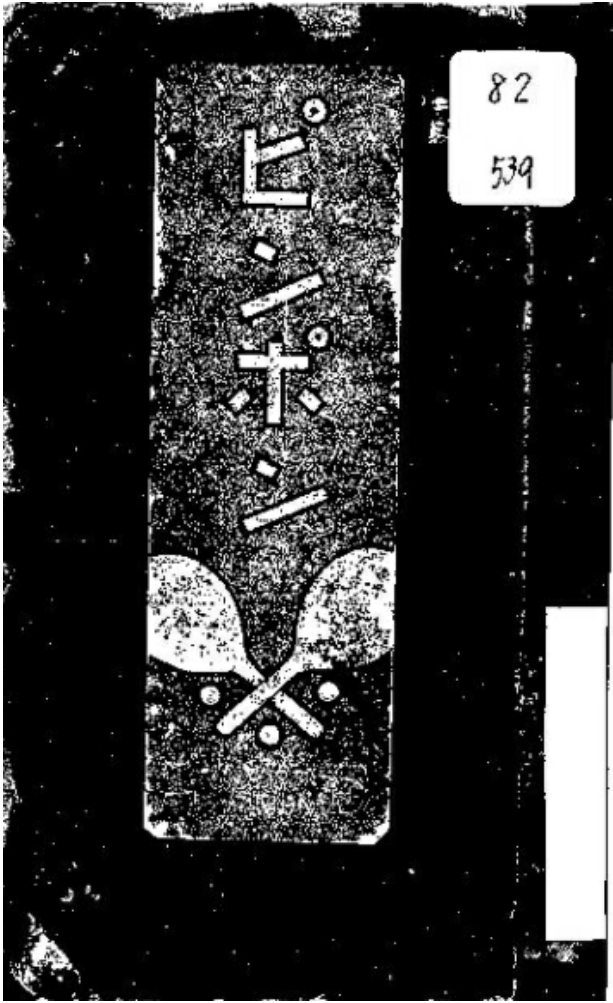
**BOXED SETS WITH CHILDREN ON THE LID**



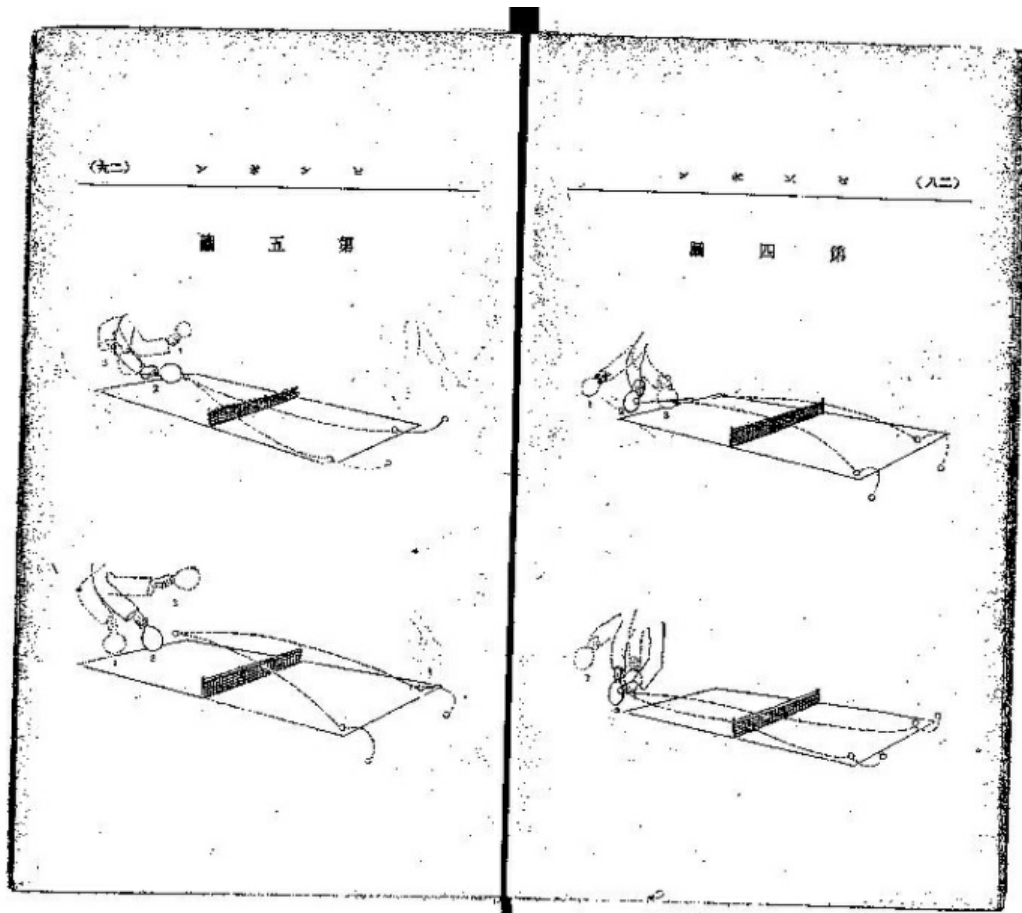
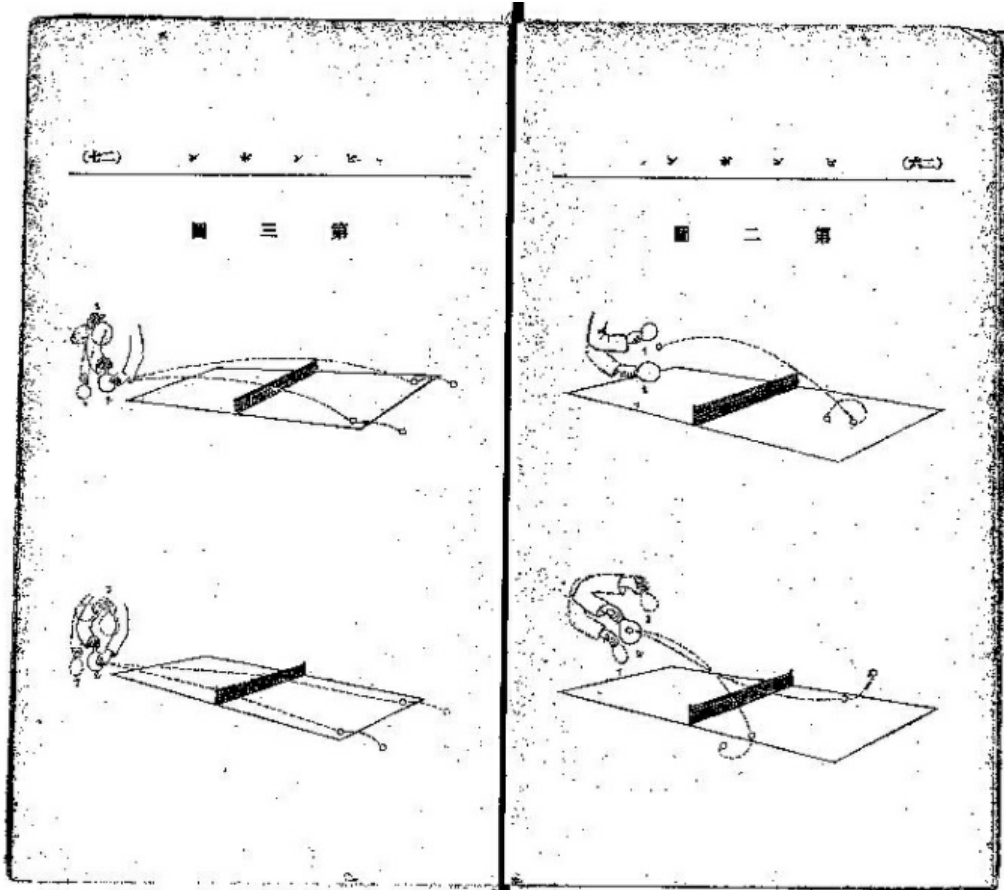
To be continued

Jota Ito (JPN) sends copies of illustrated pages from a 1902 Japanese booklet, cover shown at right.

Jorge Arango (COL) adds that the images are pirated!











## Philatelic Update

With thanks to Hans-Peter Trautmann (GER).

The Summer Olympics will hopefully begin on 23 July in Tokyo, and we should see some new special postmarks and maybe some stamps. Please send photos for our Philatelic Update.



City: This postmark was used in 500004 Khairatabad/India  
 Date: January 23, 2021  
 Text: Telangana State Table Tennis Association  
 Picture: Kakatiya Kala Thoranam (also called Warangal Gate) is a historical arch in the Indian state of Telangana.

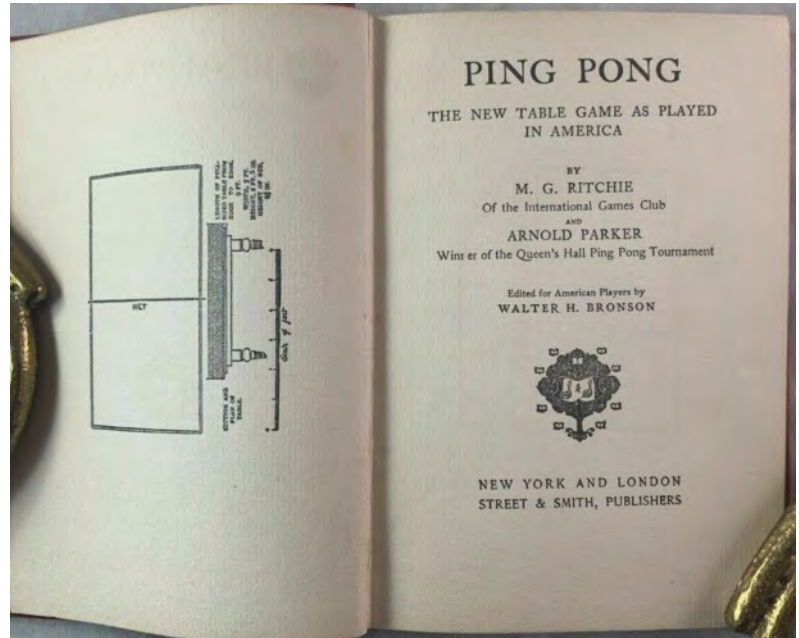
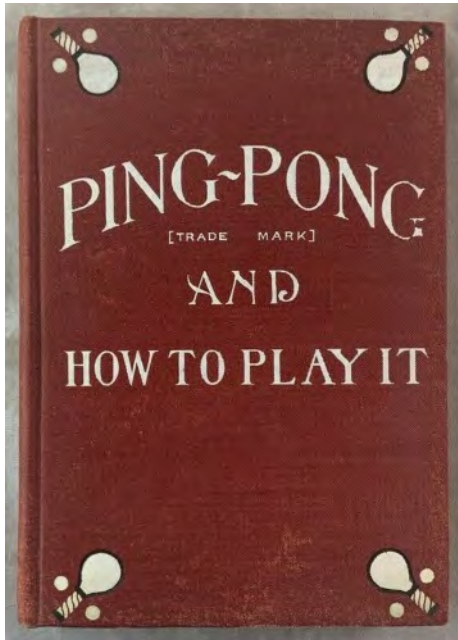
This postmark was used for the 36th All India Postal Table Tennis Tournament, Telangana Circle, Hyderabad. Telangana is a state in India with Hyderabad as its capital. The Indian Post has issued a special illustrated cover for this event



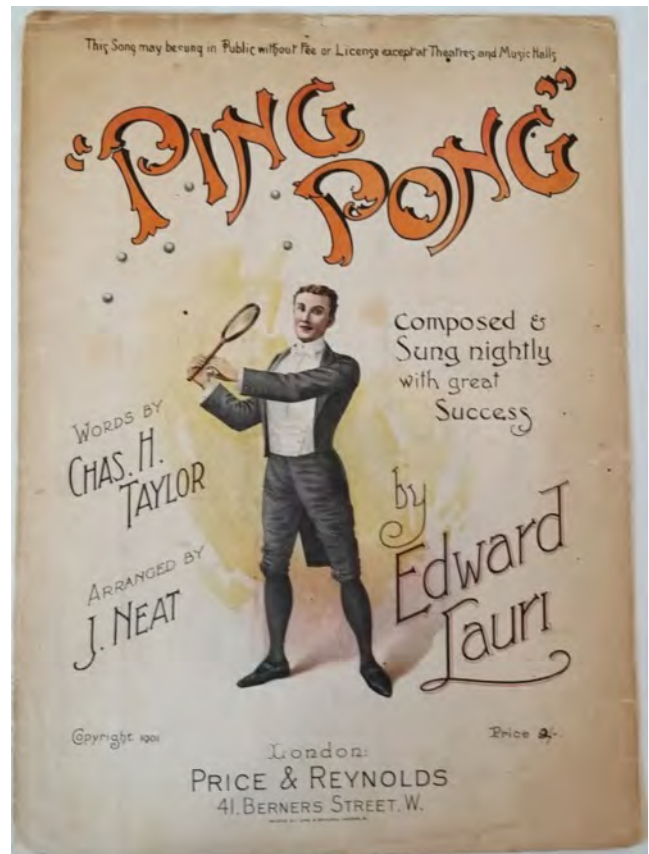
45 YEARS OF CHINA FIJI DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS - 1.38(P0915)  
 Sold by: Post Fiji Pte Limited.  
 Release Date: 10 Nov 2020



## Auction Action - Results & Trends



The Street & Smith version of this 1902 book by M.G. Ritchie and Arnold Parker. Sold for \$265



Two early pieces of well-illustrated Ping Pong sheet music. Seller asks \$300 each.



McLoughlin Bros (NYC) boxed set with 2 different vellum rackets and free-standing folding net fixture. \$276 after 12 bids.

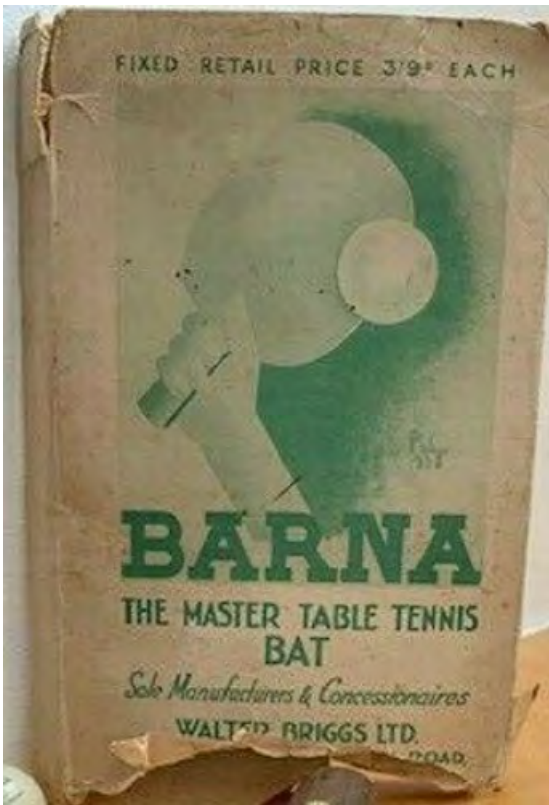


2 pair of fine early McLoughlin (NYC) rackets from a worn boxed set. \$153.50



Lot of 2 early wood bats, which together sold for only 20 GBP.  
Above: Bat with unusual pistol grip with two finger holes  
UK Patent No. 393113, James Barker, 1902 June 30  
Fabio made a reproduction of this bat, shown in TTC81  
Below: Mally bat with textured surface  
Quite a bargain, and only 1 bid ! Seller would not ship to USA





iv

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!**

**There is only ONE**

**“BARNNA”**

**RACKET**

**BUT IT IS NOW MADE IN TWO WEIGHTS**

**“BARNNA” LIGHT & “BARNNA” HEAVY**

Weight approximately 5½ oz.                      Weight approximately 6½ oz.

**EITHER WEIGHT, EACH 3/9<sup>d</sup> IN THE GREEN & WHITE CARTON**

**WALTER BRIGGS, LTD., Peartree St., LONDON, E.C.1**

What a Discovery! A Walter Briggs Barna bat with original box and advertisement, for 50GBP.. The mystery is that there was only 1 bidder, who placed 3 bids. The box is damaged but rare to find with the bat.



Rare Barna ball box by Walter Briggs. Same inner box label, but no original balls 19GBP



Barna thick sponge bat with giant pips, 1950s. 74 GBP after 17 bids. This bat often sells for much higher prices (another example recently sold for 250GBP), so be patient & you might find a bargain





94 GBP after 30 bids. The Dunlop logo is in a red teardrop, and both the logo and the signature are in the middle of the handle. Beautiful condition.



Dunlop Barna hardbat with red teardrop. Sold for a bargain 50GBP. Be sure to check the Buy it Now auctions on ebay, as that is how you can often find the best prices.



Silver trophy/party prize 1902 with wood bottom, James Deakon & Sons maker. 40 GBP

Pin from the 1948 World Championships, Wembley, England. Sold for only 9.50 GBP



Ball autographed by Victor Barna, Helen Elliott (SCO) & Johnny Leach at an exhibition in Dundee, Scotland, November 28, 1951. 100 GBP

Program for an international event in 1930 featuring England versus the rest of the world. I do not have any records of this contest, and find it surprising given the domination of the Hungarian players in those early years. Did not sell at 5 GBP.



Auction lot of 4 English Open Table Tennis programs, including 1946 (left), 1949, 1950, and program for the 1977 World Championships. The lot sold for 20 GBP. In the old days the English Open was considered a second World Championships, convenient travel from the European venues for the Worlds.



From the 1961 World Championships, Beijing, this is a 104cm poster on linen. The seller is asking \$1200 on ebay. This beautiful image, along with a companion graphic, also appears in postcard format, as well as full-page format in the program for this historic event, the 1<sup>st</sup> Worlds hosted by China. 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 consecutive World Singles titles won by Zhuang Zedong

French poster 1930s, estimated at 200 to 300 GBP





Well preserved pair of Jimmy McClure hard rubber bats with leather butt caps. \$45



Large medallion from Koji Goto, president of the Japanese delegation, for the 1969 World Championships in Munich. Original box. 8.60 GBP



Pair of Jaques Ann Haydon bats. 3 GBP



Stiga Bengtsson Mark V 38GBP



Stiga Bengtsson ST Long handle. Also listed as 'Jubilaumsholz'



Stiga Ehrlich blade, perforated slant grip. 127 GBP



Box of 12 Nittaku 3-star balls from the 1971 World Championships in Nagoya, Japan. \$60



Above: The very rare Stiga TOVA Stipancic bat, 15,400 SEK (~1765 USD) after 43 bids!!  
 Right: Stiga Kjell Johansson bat autographed on 1 side by Johansson, the other side by Bengtsson 124 GBP after 21 bids.





12-ball box of N.A.P. Balls, Osaka, JPN  
9 balls total. \$10



Box of Palma balls, along with an extra empty box. \$10





6-box of Korean Peace balls. \$10



New in original boxes, Barna 3-crown balls, 2x boxed 6-balls and 3-balls. \$70



Box of 11 Alex Taylor Balls. \$75



5x Butterfly bats in original boxes. \$960 after 21 bids. L-R: Swedish Style, American Style, Jonyer H, French Style, English Style



Statue of female player said to be by Meissen, but reminiscent of Herend of Hungary. \$175



Tokyo Olympics pin \$15



Butterfly Tamca carbon rackets, sold for \$1150 after 21 bids. Technology marches on !

Facsimiles of this German article from 1901 are offered on ebay, mentioning an 1899 Ping-Pong tournament in Berlin. The Finals featured spectacular displays of attack and defense. Following is a Google translation of the introductory paragraphs:

**Ein Ping-Pong-Turnier.**

In einer unserer letzten Nummern haben wir einen etwas allgemein gehaltenen Artikel mit Illustrationen über Ping-Pong gebracht und bemerkt, dass in Berlin bereits Vorbereitungen zu einem Turnier getroffen würden. Inzwischen hat diese Veranstaltung, welche von Mitgliedern der Berliner Lawn-Tennis-Vereinigung 1899 in Szene gesetzt wurde, stattgefunden, und zwar in dem bereits von uns erwähnten Ping-Pong-Café am Victoria Luise-Platz.

Ueber dieses Turnier schreibt „Sport im Wort“ folgendes: „Einige Mitglieder der Berliner Lawn-Tennis-Vereinigung 1899 veranstalteten am Sonnabend, den 30. November, und den folgenden Tagen das erste Berliner Ping-Pong-Turnier. Dasselbe erfreute sich trotz der Neuheit des Ping-Pong-Sports einer regen Beteiligung. Es wurden folgende Konkurrenzen zum Austrag gebracht: 1. Herren-Einzelspiel ohne Vorgabe; 2. Damen-Einzelspiel

Die Veranstalter dieses Turniers kann man zu dem Erfolge, den sie mit demselben gehabt haben, bestens beglückwünschen.

Als Vorbild diente ihnen ein gewöhnliches Lawn-Tennis-Turnier, was sich für die Zukunft jedoch nicht empfehlen dürfte, da die Regeln des Spiels und der Leitung eines derartigen Turniers von den massgebenden Ping-Pong-Regeln nicht unwesentlich abweichen. Tische ohne irgend welche Leisten auf der Spielfläche, also mit ganz geraden Kanten, sind die einzigen, welche sich zur Ausübung des Spiels eignen; die Einteilung in Spielfelder wie beim Lawn-Tennis ist unnötig. Der Cavendish Table-Tennis Club zu London, der im Tisch-Tennis in England das bedeutet, was der Marylebone Cricket Club für Cricket und die Lawn-Tennis Association für Lawn-Tennis ist, hat für das Spiel folgende einheitlichen Regeln festgesetzt:

1. Das Service soll so ausgeführt werden, dass beim Schlagen des Balles kein Teil des Schlägers, ausser dem Griff, höher als die Hüfte gehalten wird.
2. Das Service soll hinter dem betr. Ende des Tisches ausgeführt werden und zwar so, dass der Schläger im Moment des Schlagens innerhalb des Raums steht, der gebildet würde, wenn man sich die Seitenkanten des Tisches verlängert denkt.
3. „Lets“ sollen wie beim Lawn-Tennis gezählt werden.
4. Keine „faults“ sollen gestattet sein.
5. Kein „volleying“ soll erlaubt sein, und alle diese Schläge, ob absichtlich oder nicht, sollen gegen den betr. Spieler, der sich des Vergehens schuldig macht, zählen.
6. Wenn der Ball während eines Spiels die Decke oder irgend einen Gegenstand ausserhalb des Tisches berührt (ausser dem Netz, Netzpfosten oder Racket des Gegners), bevor er auf den Tisch niederfällt, so soll der Punkt gegen den Spieler zählen, der den Ball geschlagen hat.
7. Es soll nach Punkten gezählt werden, und das Service wechselt jedesmal, nachdem fünf Punkte gemacht sind.

Die obige Illustration stellt einen Saal dar, in welchem an vier Tischen, ähnlich, wie es seinerzeit im hiesigen Ping-Pong-Café geschehen ist, ein Turnier abgehalten wird. Pilot.



**Ein Ping-Pong-Turnier.**

mit Vorgabe; 3. Herren-Einzelspiel mit Vorgabe, und 4. ein gemischtes Vorgabe-Einzelspiel. In der ersten Konkurrenz vermochte Herr G. Erdmann\* nach spannendem Kampfe gegen den sehr sicher spielenden Herrn Dr. Stern den ersten Preis zu erringen. Im Damen-Einzelspiel standen sich Frä. A. Magnus und Frä. Wolf in der Schlussrunde gegenüber; nach heissem Ringen entschied sich der Sieg für die erstere. Herr Gottschalk, der Sieger im Herren-Einzelspiel mit Vorgabe, hat seinen Sieg der Sieherbeit seiner langen Drives und seiner guten Back-hand Half-rolleys zu verdanken, da ihm diese trotz einer Belastung von 0-40 gegen den sehr sicher spielenden Herrn Reichelt den ersten Preis sicherten. Die Schlussrunde im gemischten Vorgabe-Einzelspiel zwischen Herrn Erdmann\* und Mr. Holder (A. A. C.) bot manchen interessanten Moment. Ersterer befand sich durch seine schnellen Back-hand Half-rolleys stets in der Offensive, aber Mr. Holder verblüffte die Zuschauer durch die unerschütterliche Ruhe, mit der er den schnellen, gut platzierten Angriffen entgegentrat. Es war dies wohl das an Abwechslung reichste Spiel im Turnier, und erst nach schwerem Kampfe konnte Herr Erdmann\* auch in dieser Konkurrenz den ersten Platz belegen, nachdem Mr. Holder Herrn H. Wolf, welcher sich durch lange, sichere und kräftige Drives auszeichnete, in der Vorrunde knapp geschlagen hatte.“

In one of our last issues we published a somewhat general article with illustrations about ping-pong and noticed that preparations were already being made for a tournament in Berlin. In the meantime, this event, which was staged by members of the Berlin Lawn Tennis Association in 1899, has taken place in the ping-pong cafe on Victoria Luise-Platz, which we mentioned earlier. Sport writes the following about this tournament: Some members of the Berlin Lawn Tennis Association 1899 organized the first Berlin ping-pong tournament on Saturday, November 30th and the following days. Despite the novelty of the ping-pong sport, the same enjoyed lively participation. The following competitions were held:

1. Men's singles without handicap (won by G. Erdmann over Dr. Stern)
2. Women singles with handicap; (won by A. Magnus over Fr. Wolf)
3. Men's singles with handicap (won by Herr Gottschalk over Herr Reichelt)
4. Mixed handicap singles (won by Herr Erdmann over Mr. Holder)

Can our readers offer any further news coverage of this 1899 tournament?



VIP gift in custom case, for the 1995 World Championships in Tianjin, PR China. According to a notarized certificate, 3000 examples were produced by a gift company in Guangdong Province, appointed by the Preparatory Committee of the 43<sup>rd</sup> World Table Tennis Championships. The gift features copper silver and gold plating, and includes the Championship emblem and 'lucky symbol'. The seller is asking \$500 for this unusual item.

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