



Table Tennis History Journal

90

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

February
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Trophy won by Fred Perry in the 1929 World Singles Championship,
along with his Bronze medal from the 1929 Swaythling Cup

Table Tennis History Journal



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Editor and Publisher:
Chuck Hoey, Honorary Curator
ITTF Museum & China TT Museum
museum@ittf.com

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From the Editor

Dear Friends,

Welcome to issue 90 of the *Table Tennis History Journal*, for historians, writers, collectors, and all lovers of our sport. I wish everyone a happy, successful and healthy 2020.

Our **Cover Story** features the 1929 World Singles trophy presented to legendary **Fred Perry**, along with his Swaythling Cup bronze medal from the same World Championships. **New Discoveries - Old Treasures** continues to show superb items recently found, including some beauties by **Fabio Marcotulli (VEN)**. A great pleasure to welcome back author and collector **Steve Grant (USA)**, who sends two historical reports. **Alan Duke (ENG)** continues his fascinating series on early newspapers and magazines. **Jorge Arango (COL)** sends his 9th installment on early pirated images, and **Gerald Gurney (ENG)** shares his collection of Fred Perry silver medals. We also re-visit the renowned artist and Table Tennis star **Gustav Rehberger (AUT/USA)**.

Our **Philatelic Update** includes some new postmarks and stamps, with grateful thanks to our contributors. **Hans-Peter Trautmann** sends two reports, on some fine pieces & Serbian stamp varieties. **Auction Action** focuses on recent auctions and trends worldwide.

Hope you enjoy the new issue. Feedback and corrections are always welcomed. Next edition scheduled for June 1, 2020.

For our sport ... Table Tennis. For all. For Life.

Chuck

Back Page

The Tokyo Olympic Games begin in July 2020, and as always many pins, coins, medallions and other souvenirs will be produced. Our Back Page features some of the early releases. There are also national team pins and badges, two shown here from Team USA. No doubt there will be many other pins & souvenir items. Check ebay listings often to see what is available. Contact me to add to a master list.



SPONGE MENACE REDUCED

says

JOHNNY LEACH

World Champion, 1948-9, 1950-1

SPONGE as we know it from the last World Championships is a menace no longer to players who have had sufficient experience against it. I am convinced of this after experiences in the recent Scandinavian Championships and the series of international tournaments with Oigimura and Flisberg.

Of six matches against Flisberg I won four, and I beat Oigimura three times out of five.

All seasoned players such as Andreadis, Harangozo, Vogrinc and myself played with much more confidence than in the past, and found the spin no longer worried us.

Previously I had been on edge when called upon to face sponge.

Sponge when you first meet it is a psychological weapon. Given practice against it, and it is reduced to the level of another bat, but to my mind inferior to orthodox rubber.

Thus I am prepared to state that rubber will eventually get the better of sponge.

Will die

My recent experiences more than emphasize the remarks I made a year ago.

"Sponge bats will die a natural death. It only needs time for rubber bat players to adjust their timing and the 'sponger' will fade out."

"How come, then," you may ask, "that Dolinar, a 'sponger' and your conqueror in the quarter-final, won the Scandinavian title?"

A fair question, and here in my opinion is the answer.

Dolinar uses a different type of sponge, a thicker type which is so heavy that it is attached to one side of the bat only. As such it is no good for the orthodox player, and there lies his secret for the present.

He imparts more spin, especially side spin, making it difficult to sustain a rally. However, his mastery will, I believe, be short-lived once the

rubber bat players get practice against him.

I base this assumption on the fact that Harangozo, who lives near Dolinar and meets him often, knows how to deal with him.

On edge

In the Scandinavian championships Harangozo lost to Flisberg in the semi-final, but had he come up against his own countryman then the general opinion was that Dolinar would not have won so easily.

I must admit that when I lost 1-3 to Dolinar in the quarter-final I was once again on edge, not knowing what to expect.

We have heard a lot of criticism about sponge taking the spectacle out of table tennis, but this need not be the case when it is opposed to rubber. But a match between two "spongers" is just hopeless.

New surface

While we may have got used to the first of these "silent weapons," another one is beginning to rear its head. Oigimura tells me that Tanaka, the present Japanese champion, is us-

Graham Frankel (ENG) sends this article, from the 4 Jan 1955 issue of the English *Table Tennis* magazine. He asks if our readers have seen the 'new surface' described as a layer of sponge on top of pimped rubber.

ing a new type of surface called soft rubber.

"I find it absolutely impossible to return Tanaka's service," the world champion said, and Oigimura left me with the opinion that he will be switching over to this new bat on his return home.

The new bat consists of a thin layer of sponge over the top of ordinary pimped-rubber. So it looks as though there will soon be a new talking point to add fire to the "ban sponge" critics.

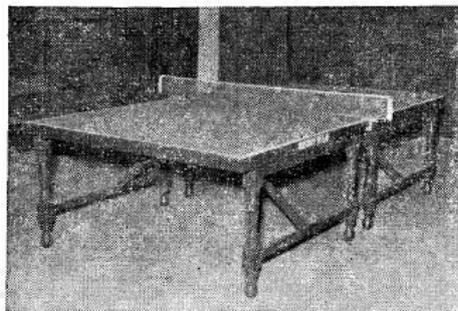
However, once again, the new material, which I have already seen, is too heavy to be of use to the orthodox player.

I regard this new weapon in the same light as ordinary sponge. Given practice, and the rubber bat players will eventually overcome it.

I feel that if there were more sponge bat players the menace would be conquered quicker. Meanwhile, in my opinion it is setting table tennis back some two or three years.

Youngsters who are now taking it up will probably find sponge of little use in a couple of years, and it will mean them having to start over again learning the control that can only come with rubber.

The "BROMFIELD"
CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE as used in most International Matches in England this season.



United Kingdom prices
Turned Legs Model (as illustrated) £37/2/6
3" Square Legs — £33/12/6
Deferred terms available,
from £1 monthly.

WRITE FOR FULL LIST which includes:
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Spalding Villa £43/10/0
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Telephone : Steyning 2004

Branch Shop:
69/70, Middle Street, Brighton, 1, Sussex
Brighton 26760

New Discoveries, Old Treasures
Wood Bats au naturale



A very unique pair of hand-crafted bats, each made from a single piece of wood c.1902. The handles are apparently in a natural state, with some enhancements done by hand. These are truly works of Table Tennis art, au naturale. The two bumps on the handles are perfect as rests for the thumb and forefinger.

New Discoveries - Old Treasures

Ping Pong Jewelry



This group of early Ping Pong jewelry was included in the Graham Budd sporting auction of 4 November 2019. The starting estimate was £50, and the lot sold for £300

Many pieces of jewelry were designed during the 'Ping Pong craze' of 1902, including a gold watch clip, brooches, pins and pendants of sterling silver, charms etc. These seldom surface, so the prices tend to be high. But they are excellent social evidence of the great popularity of the new game. Sometimes these small but attractive items were worn by the fashionable hostess of a Ping Pong party, or they were used as prizes or gifts.

New Discoveries - Old Treasures
Fabio Marcotulli



Well-preserved Dunlop Barna boxed net and posts



Reproduction from the patent of this ball grip bat, which Fabio reports is very comfortable in the hand.



Beautiful pyrographed set, c. 1902, probably by Horsman (NY)



Ping Pong humor, from the set of 12 advertising cards for Globe Metal Polish. Fabio is searching for the remaining 4 cards to complete the set. Please help!



Fine wood boxed set with Quiggins 2-piece wire mesh net. 1902



Wood bat with silver tipped handle and initials plaque. c. 1902



Brightgoods thick waffle style sponge racket, 1950s.



Well-preserved example of the French Ludarva World Cup hard rubber bat



Silver Cup that Fred Perry won for the 1929 World Singles title at the 3rd World Championships in Budapest. The trophy is engraved: "Budapest 1929 GEIST GASPARD DIJA". Geist was then President of the Hungarian TT Association.



Fred Perry's Bronze medal for the 1929 Swaythling Cup, when Team England placed third. See edition 86 for a related story, when a metal detector enthusiast found another such medal in Utah (USA). We think it belonged to the English team captain, Ivor Montagu, who was traveling through Utah in 1930, escorting famed Russian film maker Sergei Eisenstein to Hollywood, California.

The 1929 Fred Perry World Championship Trophy

by Chuck Hoey



Fred Perry (ENG 1909-1995) was truly a sports legend, winning 3 consecutive Wimbledon Singles titles, 10 majors and 55 titles overall. He went on to found one of the largest sporting clothes and accessories companies in the world, still in business today. But before all that he was also a Table Tennis sensation, winning the 1929 World Singles Championship in Budapest. He is shown above left in Australia holding the trophy presented to him for this victory, alongside Miklos Szabados (HUN), winner of the 1931 World Singles Championship, who is holding the bat used by Perry to win the Singles.

This inspired C. Corti Woodcock (ENG) to donate the St. Bride Vase to the ITTF for future World Singles Championship events. Gaspar Geist, then President of the Hungarian TT Association, who presented this silver Cup to Perry, donated the G. Geist Prize for the World Championship Women's Singles title.

I am pleased to announce that the ITTF has acquired the silver trophy, along with Perry's bronze medal for the 1929 Swaythling Cup. As the ITTF approaches its 100th anniversary, I am grateful for their fine appreciation for the history of our sport, and their support in my mission to preserve and promote our history with important pieces such as this trophy. Hope our readers can help too ! Contact: museum@ittf.com

1935 USA Barna Bat Finally Surfaces



Bourquin Brothers + Victor: A Winning Team

by Steve Grant

The 1935 Parker Brothers Barna bat has finally appeared. And it held a surprise, but maybe it should not have been a surprise.

Let's first review what sparked this search, which has resulted in a better understanding of Victor Barna's early associations and of France's important role in 1930s table tennis.

If you came across a cigarette holder styled as a miniature table tennis bat, you would consider it a fun novelty and that would be the end of it. But if that tiny bat was inscribed "Barna" on one side of the handle (below) and "LA RAQUETTE des CHAMPIONS" on the other, it would get you to thinking. No one would just create that out of thin air, right? An actual full-size bat must be the model.



But no such actual bat was known. The search was on. In Issue 79 (pages 18-24), we found that this unknown bat must be from the period of Barna's residency in 1930s France. Examining other evidence, I concluded (too hastily?) that the French firm Ludarva, in the course of acquiring Bourquin, was the probable maker of both the cigarette holder and the still-unknown bat that inspired it. I also showed a 1935 U.S. ad for a Parker Brothers Barna bat and wrote, "Now we need

someone to find these bats---a Ludarva and a Parker Brothers with the 1930s-type Barna signature, preferably on an ivorine inset."

That was in 2016, when I also wrote, "I can't find any trace of surviving Bourquin-identified equipment..." Right after publication, a French seller happened to list a tube of Bourquin-Six Barna balls on eBay, providing new clues that I wrote about in Issue 80, pages 30-31, "Another Puzzle Piece Snaps into Place."

In 2017, one of the sought-for bats appeared on French eBay, luckily in the original box and apparently of French manufacture. See "Found---The Mystery Barna Bat" in Issue 82, page 7. As predicted, it had the same handle inset and inscription as the cigarette holder.

Then, in late 2019, the Parker Brothers bat surfaced in a USA estate sale, also fortunately in the original box. The surprise: One side of the handle was stamped "LA RAQUETTE des CHAMPIONS." I hadn't expected the French language to be carried over to the USA bat:

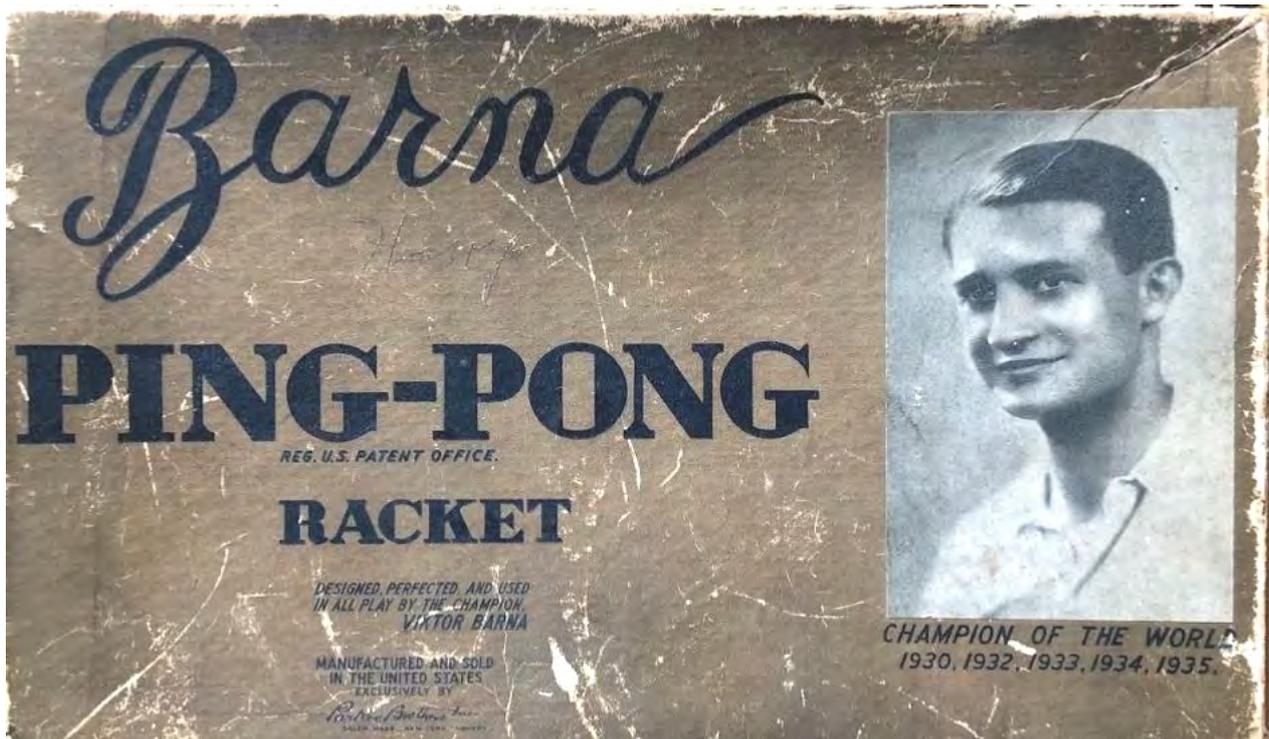


For comparison, here's the same inscription on the French bat:

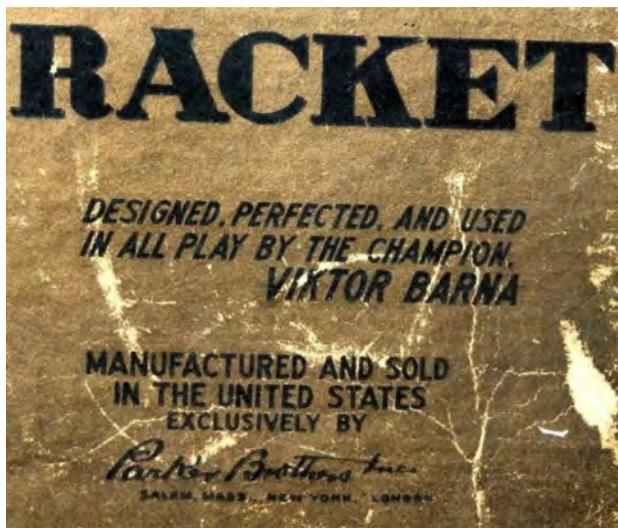


American buyers must have been puzzled to find a French slogan on an American bat endorsed by a Hungarian world champion. That slogan showed the influence of Bourquin, which was in charge of worldwide licensing of the Barna name, as our colleague Bruno Lancon (FRA) showed in Issue 89. Clearly, Bourquin---and Barna---insisted that the Barna bat maintain uniform characteristics across world markets. Given a choice, Parker Brothers otherwise would not have used the French wording.

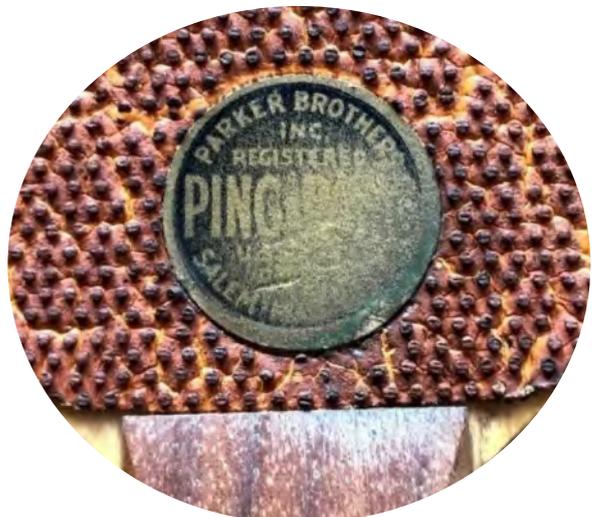
When it came to box design, though, Parker Brothers asserted its independence. Bourquin had stuck to its green/white color identity, dating back to its tennis products in the 1920s, and the Barna packaging used by the UK firm Walter Briggs used primarily the same Bourquin artwork. Every Briggs Barna ad stated, "in the green & white carton." But Parker had its own idea:



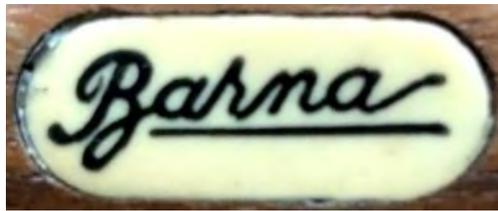
Manufactured in the U.S. by Parker, says the box.



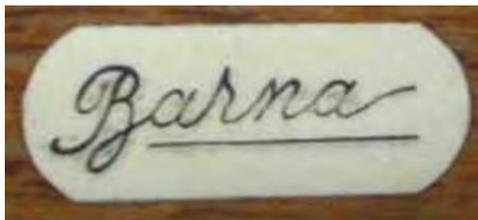
Parker Brothers placed its own sticker on both sides of the bat.



1935 Parker Brothers



c. 1934 Bourquin



Back in France, manufacturing of the Barna bat was entrusted to Tunmer & Cie., which had decades of sports equipment experience. Their relationship with Bourquin began in January 1933 with the just-released Bellak bat and the Bourquin-Six table tennis products. The January 20, 1933 issue of *Ping Pong* carried the ad at right, where Valentin Bourquin “informs customers that it has entrusted the manufacture and wholesale operation” of its brand to Tunmer. From the May 20, 1933 *Ping Pong* (published, bear in mind, by a Bourquin brother!): “We have learned that Barna has been studying for several months, in secret, a bat model that is suitable for your game...We also believe that a large French house will immediately begin manufacturing.

Who will not want the Barna bat?”

RAQUETTES	
La « Tunmer Special », palette contre-plaqué en véritable bouleau de 6 m/m. Bords chanfreinés, surface caoutchouc à pastilles fines bleu ou rouge.....	18
La « Bellak » établie sur les données du champion hongrois	25
La « Barna » de forme nouvelle, brevetée	25
La « Bourquin Six » avec faces caoutchouc noir	20

At left: Part of a Tunmer ad, October 28, 1933 *Ping Pong*.

AVIS

V. A. BOURQUIN
19, rue de la Michodière
PARIS-2^e. Tél. Central 61-79

informe sa clientèle qu'il a confié la fabrication et l'exploitation en gros de la marque

SIX

à la Maison TUNMER

V. A. BOURQUIN
continue toutefois à servir sa clientèle particulière et de clubs comme par le passé.

RAQUETTE BOURQUIN-SIX.....	20 »
RAQUETTE BELLAK	25 »
BALLE « SIX », la grosse	90 »
» » la 1/2 grosse	50 »
» » la douzaine	12 »
» » le tube de 6	7 »

TABLE DE MATIEL BOURQUIN-SIX
925 francs
10 0 0 pour paiement à la commande

Examining the pages of the French journal *Ping Pong* (1932-1935), we see the Bourquin brothers playing an important part in the promotion and expansion of French table tennis, together with other leaders such as Marcel Corbillon, Pierre About and star player Raymond Verger. Constant Bourquin was the “outside man,” publishing *Ping Pong* (with help from Verger and others) and managing the “Barna-storming” exhibition tours in Europe, while Valentin Bourquin was Mr. Inside, running the day-to-day company operations and the famed Opera Ping Pong Club.

In my Issue 79 article, I made the guess that Bourquin did not make any Barna bats with ivorine signature insets before turning over the business to Ludarva in 1934-35. I was wrong. It’s now clear that Bourquin did indeed produce the ivorine inset bats, and that Ludarva didn’t take over until late 1935 or beyond. You can see the ivorine inset in this ad from the January 20, 1934 *Ping Pong*:



You can also see part of the ivorine inset when we zoom into this December 4, 1933 photo (below) from the world championships in Paris. And look at the world-class thumb wear! You know that’s not a bat that Barna picked up just yesterday. So the ivorine inset must have been produced at least by November 1933.



What about the known Barna bats with a stamped signature instead? We suspect that the Bourquin-boxed nailed-grip example shown in Issue 79, page 22, dates to summer/fall 1933. As to the Barna stamped-signature bats with no box, with no nailed grip, and/or with cork endpieces, were they authorized Bourquin variations, or unauthorized products, or pre-Bourquin or....? I don’t know.

The Barna ad shown on the cover and page 17 of TTH Issue 89, from the August 1933 *Ping Pong*, was not the first ad for a Barna bat. The June 1933 *Ping Pong* had teaser ads---one or two on almost every page---to alert readers that the bat was soon coming (along with an interview with Barna about the bat, shown in Issue 89). Then the July *Ping Pong* had two notices announcing the bat's arrival, plus this large half-page ad at right. The ad boasts "Two Sensational Newcomers" and a "Reminder" of older Bourquin products. The Barna bat offers "a new shape (patented) that helps the player use the correct grip." The products are sold "in department stores and sports and toy houses."



Two years later, the Parker Brothers USA ad (below, distributed by Spalding; shown previously in Issue 79) took a different approach: "A Twin of Barna's Racket! Yes, from the short, comfortable wooden handle to the specially made rubber...it's identical with the bat used by the World's Table Tennis Champion. And its generously broad shoulders and face give plenty of playing area..."



Walter Briggs was the firm licensed to sell Barna bats in the UK at this time. (Their handle had the ivory inset, but I don't know if it also had the French slogan.) No longer need we be perplexed by the Briggs advertising claim that 60% of all players at the February 1935 World Championships used the Barna bat. The ad was of course referring to all Barna bats, which dated to 1933, not just those sold by Briggs, which dated from only August 1934. A July 1933 *Ping Pong* article noted that "Barna sent the bat to one of his brothers who lives in Budapest. A few days pass and Barna gets a letter asking to send by plane" more Barna bats for national team members Glancz, David, Borosz, Sipes and Mednyanszky. "Barna is delighted with the success of his baby with these great connoisseurs."

The May 1934 issue of *Revue des Articles de Sports* noted that in the recent successful sports equipment season, Bourquin-Six "particularly stood out by launching with a great sense of opportunity the Barna bat and the Barna ball, which are considered throughout the world as the most perfect instruments available to a ping pong player...All we need say is that the technical director of Bourquin is the incomparable player Barna..."



M. Constant Bourquin

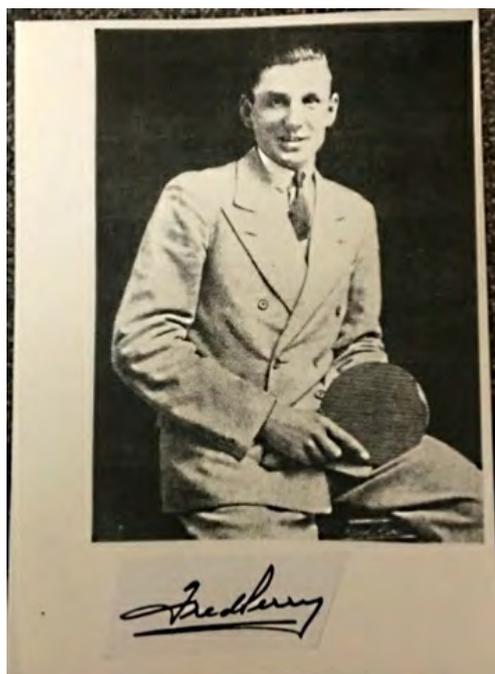
Do these appear the type of men who might create a Barna-bat cigarette holder? More than three years after our search began, I suspect we have found the culprits.



Valentin BOURQUIN

(Images from *Ping Pong*, Dec 5, 1932 and Jan. 20, 1933)

Fred Perry Medals by Gerald Gurney (ENG)



Readers will be well aware that Fred Perry won the world singles trophy in Budapest in 1929. This is now in the safe hands of the ITTF.

His lesser achievements are not so well-known, but some are noted by these 20 medals, 17 of which are engraved on the back with the title of the event and usually with the year, running from 1927 to 1938.

In 1927, he was runner-up in the ETTA National Competition, and in the following year finalist in the London League. He was then winner (with C.H. Bull) of two ETTA Championships and the Middlesex Championships plus the mixed doubles (with Miss W. H. Land).

In 1929, he reached the ETTA semi-final (was this before or after his success in Budapest?), and in 1930 he was winner (with whom?) of the Men's doubles of the English National Championships. In the same year he was runner-up in the Indian Student's Union Championships and runner-up in the London Championships (mixed and men's doubles) before winning the Middlesex Championships singles.

Further successes followed and Perry (curiously) won a medal for an exhibition, perhaps the one he is known to have played v. Miklos Szabados.



A Trophy in Search of a Name



Birth of the Corbillon Cup

by Steve Grant

The Swaythling Cup goes to the winning men's team at the table tennis world championships. It was so named because it was donated in 1926 by Lady Swaythling.

The naming of the Corbillon Cup, the women's counterpart, was an entirely different story. It's a long-forgotten story, and a story that shines a deservedly favorable light on Marcel Corbillon (1890-1958). So I pieced together the details from contemporary issues of the French journal *Ping Pong*.

We begin in February 1933, just after the world championships in Austria. Next it would be France's turn to host the annual event for the first time, led by Mr. Corbillon. Another first, pushed through by Corbillon: The 1934 event would finally include a women's team competition, whereas a men's team event had always been part of the championships.

To raise the funds for the new women's trophy, the organizers earmarked profits from the upcoming Barna/Bellak/Verger exhibition tour. "On the initiative of our newspaper," began the February 20, 1933 *Ping Pong* article, "thanks to the intervention of the Comite de Paris and in particular its secretary Mr. Corbillon, a unique event in scale will take place throughout France," where the

champions will "play against the best local representation...The profits of this Tour de France will be entirely devoted by the Comite de Paris to the purchase of the Coupe de France," a women's trophy corresponding to the Swaythling Cup. The group will "leave Paris on March 3, taken by our director Mr. Constant Bourquin in the *Ping Pong* car." Known as the "Crusade," the four-week tour also included two



latter appearing to hold a *Ping Pong* banner. (Photo from March 5, 1933 *Ping Pong*.)

Officials began thinking that maybe Coupe de France was not the best name for the trophy. From the May 20 *Ping Pong*: "Here are some of the names proposed...Coupe Gallia [Gaul], Coupe Trianon,

Coupe Mistinguett [France's famous female entertainer of the time], Coupe France et Navarre, Coupe d'Europe, etc. We have to find something else. We ask our readers for a little bit of imagination."

The next issue, in June, published a letter from Dr. Dermant, president of the Turgot Ping Pong Club. "Only one name, in my opinion, can be given to this cup---Marcel Corbillon [right].

All table tennis players in France will be unanimous in recognizing the dedication with which our federation president has supported ping pong---and has succeeded in spreading this sport throughout France...We will thus associate, in present and in future, the name of Marcel Corbillon with ping pong...The idea is excellent. It has only one fault: Marcel Corbillon will never accept this flattering and just homage..." Dermant therefore offers an alternate suggestion: Coupe Jeanne de France, for Joan of Arc.



From the November *Ping Pong*: "We were the first to publish the Dermant proposal" to name the cup after Corbillon. "The Comite de Paris, which offers the cup, unanimously and enthusiastically rallied to Dermant's idea. Only the interested party does not agree. This cup, which will be purchased with about 2,500 francs from the ping pong 'Crusade' profits, must be named after Marcel Corbillon (without whom there would have been no Crusade). We urge all the clubs that participated in the Crusade...to intervene without delay with the Comite de Paris...so that Marcel Corbillon is forced to accept. No one more than he deserves to leave his name to a world trophy."

In the next issue, the last before the world championships, *Ping Pong* referred to the trophy only as Coupe des Dames (Women's Cup). But in the following issue, the report on the world's did now use the term Coupe Marcel Corbillon. In that issue, Mr. Corbillon himself wrote an article on the women's event, but without referring to the trophy. (He wrote many features for *Ping Pong* before and during his 1933-35 term as FFTT president.) The article mentioned that the proposal for a women's team event had originated a year earlier from Germany but said nothing about his own key role. In a later tribute, ITTF president Ivor Montagu wrote that Corbillon in 1933 forced "us into an act of justice Lawn Tennis has never brought itself to perform in all its years, the placing of women on an equality with men." (*Table Tennis*, May 1958.)

Germany beat Hungary to become the first winner of the Marcel Corbillon Cup. China (seen below in 2018) has won 20 of the last 22. Next contest: March 22-29 in South Korea.



The cup reads "Coupe Marcel Corbillon, Championnat du Monde, par Equipes Feminines."

EARLY MAGAZINE ARTICLES – PART 10

by Alan Duke

This part features a few items from The Queen, a continuation of the series from The Lady, interspersed with a few unrelated (and admittedly, somewhat earlier) newspaper items.

The Queen: The Lady's Newspaper. These examples of Hamley advertisements from the second half of 1901 illustrate the company's approach to promoting their range of Garden Games. Each advertisement only appeared to be used once (in this magazine anyway) before making way for a new one, but all of them mention, to a greater or lesser extent, Ping-Pong. The adverts shown below (published on 6 July, 3 August, 7 September, 21 September, and 12 October respectively) were previously referred to in an extensive article on Hamley Brothers [TTH 88 - 89].



A few observations may be made regarding the above examples (1-5 from the left). 1) The first, with just a brief name check to the left of one of the main features, Pole-Polo, describes the latter as "With Ping-Pong it is quite the Game of the Season." And the two players appear to be the same two shown playing Ping-Pong in the garden of another house [TTC 82/41]! Note the second featured game - Jaques' Croquet (demonstrating the special relationship between the two companies). 2) Just three lines for Hamley's Great Game of Ping-Pong (and similarly for Jaques' Croquet) in the second example. 3) The middle image introduces one of the Garden Ping-Pong illustrations, accompanied by the 'jointly concerned with Jaques' claim. 4) The same sketch appeared again in the large fourth example [shown in greater detail in TTH 86/19], sharing top billing with Tennis-Cricket! The Ping-Pong equipment listed was identical to that included in other adverts of that period e.g. TTH 86/26. 5) The final example just lists the name Ping-Pong at the very top.

New York Sun

23 December 1891

**Oh!! SANTA CLAUS,
LOOK HERE.**

THE SPLENDID "IN-DOOR OR PARLOR
TENNIS," \$4.00 TO \$5.00,

AT **SPALDING'S,
241 BROADWAY.**

Surrey Mirror

28 September 1900

The opening of the Horley Men's Bible Class for the coming winter season was held on Wednesday evening, when a social gathering was attended by 58 persons. Various games, associated with such gatherings, were indulged in, and there were some very closely contested games of whist, draughts, dominoes, etc. The game of "Ping Pong"—a kind of lawn tennis on a table—was introduced for the first time, and is likely to prove a great favourite among the members. [This was a very early mention for the newly-patented game.]

The Queen

14 September 1901

MESSRS HAMLEY'S LATEST GAME.

THE popularity of such games as ping-pong has given an impetus to active games, and one of the newest for out-

of-doors is tennis-cricket. [See above] The article proceeds, with the aid of a sketch, to describe how the game is played. And yes, it is tennis on a cricket pitch, with all players on the field equipped with a racket!

The Queen

28 September 1901

**GAMAGE'S
"TABLE TENNIS"
THE LATEST CRAZE.
PING-PONG "GOSSIMA"
In all Qualities.**

Skin Battledores with wood Handle, No. 1 6d., No. 2 8d., each; Vellum Battledores 10d., 1s. 3d., 1s. 6d.; superior quality, 2s. 3d. and 2s. 6d. Gut Rackets, 2s. 11d., 3s. 6d., and 4s. 11d. Best quality Celluloid Balls 1s. 6d., 11s. gross. Covered Celluloid Balls: 4s. 6d. doz.

**Table Tennis Ball "PICKER-UP"
and CASE (Provisionally Patented).**

DON'T STOOP!

The "Picker-up" will save you Trouble.

The "PICKER-UP," made in Polished Fluted Celluloid, meets a great want, as it enables Players to pick up the Balls without stooping or groping about the floor on their hands and knees.

The "PICKER-UP" is also supplied with cap fitted, which acts as a Case for keeping the Balls in.

The "PICKER-UP" is 24 inches long.

Prices: 2/9; with cap, 3/6 (Postage and),
Largest Stock in the World of Games for the

DULL WINTER EVENINGS.

Illustration showing "Picker-up" in use. **A. W. GAMAGE Ltd., HOLBORN, E.C.** Branches—ALDESHOT and DUBLIN. "Picker-up" discharging balls.

[The "Picker-Up" is probably Patent No. 10601.]

EARLY MAGAZINE ARTICLES

The Queen

14 December 1901

MR A. W. GAMAGE'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Games and sports of every kind are catered for here, and in table tennis Messrs Gamage have brought out an excellent racket made in aluminium; this is light, and always keeps in good condition, enabling the player to keep up a very fast return and service.

THE PING-PONG CLUB AT RYDE.

SINCE the idea has dawned on people that women are nearly as clubbable as men clubs in which men and women meet on equal terms have become the order of the day, and have been started for every possible object, and sometimes, indeed, for no object at all. Amusement, pure and simple, must be the aim of any club that has been set a-going for the ostensible purpose of playing the very modern, but lively and pleasant, game from which it takes its name. We say ostensible because the meetings of the Ping-Pong Club are also intended to promote sociability, and to be a pleasant rendezvous for all its members, players, and non-players.

A club of this sort that was started at Ryde in the beginning of winter is a huge success, and members come from all parts of the Isle of Wight to attend its weekly At homes. These At homes are held in the Town Hall, and both the large and small town halls are filled to overflowing by the members. The scene is a bright and lively one; there are no less than eight ping-pong tables, all of them in great demand, and people waiting for their turn make a circle round each table, watching the players, who in some cases are wonderfully skilful, and who play with as much care, making as smashing volleys, and sometimes putting as much side on the ball as if they were playing a serious game of lawn tennis.

The light little balls fly backwards and forwards, and the players are full of energy. It looks a regular beehive of industry, and the noise of battledore and ball sounds exactly like the name of the game itself.

The Queen

21 December 1901

THE TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

EVERYBODY KNEW that it must come sooner or later, and its coming has not been long delayed. The dining-room pastime of ping pong has now its championship. What has hitherto been a mere amusement is going the way of lawn tennis and croquet, and becoming an art. The unskilful will soon be chary of responding to an invitation for fear of being classed as a duffer. On the other hand the adepts are apparently anxious to shake themselves free from the undeniably apt but somewhat contemptuous designation by which the game is best known, and are seriously exerting themselves to make it known and respected under the name of table tennis. That there really is scope for dexterity in the game has been clearly shown in the course of the tournament. A few months ago an indignant French writer averred that ping pong — also styled pim pam on the other side of the Channel — had been invented by an enemy of lawn tennis as a travesty of a noble sport with the deliberate design of bringing it into contempt. But this fantastic notion could not for a moment be entertained by anybody who recognised among the players in last week's tournament at the Westminster Aquarium a number of well-known lawn tennis players.

[Illustration by Phil Egbutt]



EARLY MAGAZINE ARTICLES

The Lady

16 January 1902

THE PLAYING OF PING-PONG.

III.

IN continuation of my last week's chat on the subject of home play, a few words on the subject of dress may come in useful. It is a game essentially suitable for winter evenings, as it is really amazing how hot one grows after a few quick rallies have been kept up. For this reason evening dress is quite the most comfortable costume to play in, though many women complain that long skirts embarrass their movements considerably. Certainly one should be as unencumbered as possible, particularly in the arm and wrist, which require absolutely free play. Nothing in the nature of a lace or net skirt should be worn, for it is certain to get trodden on and ragged to pieces. The skirt should be of some firm and substantial material, and either short enough in front to permit free movement, or else so made as to be easily raised with the left hand. A good player does not tear about much, and the prettiest game is conducted by standing fairly still and reaching the balls with efficient wrist and arm play; but a sudden dash in one direction or another may be rendered necessary by certain emergencies, and the point may be lost through the hampering effect of unsuitable clothing. It has become quite an ordinary thing for gentlemen players to crave permission to remove their coats, and some even don light flannels. On the other hand, an objection is occasionally lodged against a white shirt or a light blouse on the ground that the ball is not so clearly discernable against such a background. The objection strikes me as being somewhat cavilling and far-fetched, as the ball is over on your own side of the table when you have to take it, and there is no need to observe your antagonist at all.

Western Morning News 13 December 1900

GAYLARD AND **C**OMPANY,
196, UNION STREET, PLYMOUTH
(TRAM TERMINUS)
FOR
DOLLS, **T**OYS, **G**AMES,
AND
FANCY **G**OODS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

TABLE BILLIARDS, PING PONG.

Messrs. Hamley Bros., of 512, Oxford Street, to whom belongs the registered title of the game, positively teem with novel ideas and inventions for rendering the popular pastime more popular than ever. The latest notion is that of the picker-up at the end of the racquet handle. This is a little rubber cup affixed to the end of the handle, which picks up the ball and holds it for as long as required. It is a delightful notion, but it would not suit those players who use very short-handled racquets held right in the hollow of the hand. The same rubber cup can be obtained fixed to a cane stick. The wire cages to hold a dozen or

so of balls, affixed to the underside of the table top, are another ingenious trouble-saving apparatus. The nets at the end of a long stick are also useful for collecting stray balls.

An enormous variety of nets are used, at prices ranging from about a shilling to a guinea. The "Tournament" ones are the best, extending as they do some inches beyond the edge of the table, and so precluding the possibility of the ball squirming round the post or under the top band, and claiming to be "in" when it didn't legitimately arrive there. Though any dining-table approaching the right proportions will do to play on, real ping-pong tables, such as are used for tournaments, are, of course, preferable. They are made to fold up, legs and all, so that they take up remarkably little room when put away, and can be had in all sizes, according to the accommodation of the room for which they are intended.

A great diversity of opinion exists on the subject of racquets. In recent tournaments wooden racquets were greatly to the fore, and even these vary enormously in size and pattern. One of the finest players in the recent Queen's Hall Tournament used an unpolished walnut-wood racquet, with an abbreviated handle about two and a-half inches long, which he turned about in the hollow of his hand with the utmost dexterity. Wood racquets covered with vellum, composition, leather, and even green baize, as well as plain and sand-papered ones, are to be seen. Messrs. Hamley, however, recommend their special tournament bats of real vellum, which are so strong and so tight-stretched that they vary scarcely perceptibly with the change of atmosphere. The sizes of bats show a great diversity, but it is wisest to accustom oneself to play with one whose face measures six and a-half by five and a-half inches, as that is the regulation limit for match and tournament play. Gut racquets, I hear, have a good sale, though I don't happen to have seen them used either in public or private play. My own impression is that the projecting rim would prove obtrusively in the way, surrounding so small a surface of racquet.

A very ingenious invention is that of the "Kaptiv Ball Company," and quite nice for playing a friendly knock-up practice game, though not suitable for hard serious contests, in which every point is of vital consequence. A fine silk cord of about two and a-half yards length is affixed to each ball. The extreme end of this is then tied to the centre of the net with the result that the ball is always within reach, and can be regained by its string, without the players ever having to stoop or hunt for it. Every now and again points are undoubtedly ruined, as the string sometimes impedes the free progress of the ball, and jerks it out of place or pulls it back. But for an easy-going game many persons would be willing to take their chance of this drawback in order to avoid the constant grovelling and hunting in distant corners for truant balls. For the purpose of a solitary practice in serving the "Kaptiv" is a great institution, as few persons are possessed of the patience requisite for serving and

EARLY MAGAZINE ARTICLES

hunting out balls all by themselves. But it is quite a different matter when you can stand at one end of the table all the while, and leisurely draw the ball back after every serve. And remember there is nothing like private practice for serving. When playing, no first fault is allowed, so one is naturally loth to throw away points by experimenting with severe serves, which often miss their mark. But if one always pops over easy serves, the play will remain in a very elementary stage.

The Lady

23 January 1902

IV.

WITHIN even so short a time as the month during which these Ping-Pong chats have been running the epidemic has been gaining such amazing proportions that it is really difficult to keep pace with its strides. And, like all other sports and pastimes which gain a strong hold upon popular affection, it has its bitter detractors amongst the few who, for some reason or other, are debarred from the enjoyment of it. "I get perfectly sick of hearing about it!" exclaims an irate old gentleman, "talk of 'oafs' and 'fools'—what are they in comparison with the Ping-Pong maniacs?" The staid newspaper reader flings down his favourite journal with a suppressed groan—or something worse. "It's simply preposterous! You can't take up a newspaper without finding a column devoted to the new tomfoolery staring you in the face! Are journalists gone mad over it with all the rest of the world?"

Now, newspapers supply matter that the public wants to read; if they did not, they would soon get left behind, and the stuff that is unpopular and unrequired is very quickly eliminated from their list of contents. And, after all, why should the conservative readers grudge the novelty-lovers their special "par" or column? All the rest of the paper—surely enough—remains as usual, and nobody is compelled to read that which doesn't interest them. Amongst millions of women newspaper readers there must be but the tiniest percentage who take the slightest heed of the football, cricket, and racing columns, yet they haven't the least objection to their being supplied for the edification of the male beings who gloat over them.

Now, apart from the charm of the game, Ping-Pong has much in its favour to render it deserving of all encouragement. First and foremost, perhaps, comes a negative quality, but one of great value. A game played exclusively for its own merits and skill, it has done more than all the warnings and preachings to oust bridge, and all other forms of social gambling, which threatened to attain alarming dimensions amongst both those who could and who couldn't afford them. In its own individual requirements it is eminently inexpensive, and it is hard to see how even the most extravagant of enthusiasts could contrive to squander more than a few shillings now and again over the pursuit of it.

Then it is a home game, and therefore an inducement to fathers and brothers to spend their evenings in the family circle, instead of wandering forth in search of less unsophisticated entertainment. To be sure, very fast and scientific play cannot be indulged in with the ordinary

middle-class home accommodation. But, on the other hand, few dining-rooms are so tiny and few dining-tables so diminutive that a very fairly amusing game cannot be arranged and some useful practice play obtained. And the balls, fortunately, are not destructive. I have never seen a single breakage or knock-over resultant from even the wildest antics of the little celluloid sphere when propelled from the erratic bat of an irresponsible novice, or from the slogging racquet of a ferocious expert.

It would, of course, be as well to remove delicate glass or china ornaments from a sideboard, or from shelves directly behind the players, especially if they happen to be beginners who are inclined to bang balls out against the opposite wall. Practised players send all their fast balls skimming low over the net, so that if the opponents fail to return them, they shoot past on a low level beneath the table top, where they are unlikely to find out any fragile ornaments to disturb. The furniture should be removed from close proximity to the table at either end, to allow the players sufficient room to stand back and serve with a free arm. At the sides of the table, with just a foot or two to spare, things are not in the way. Of course, the less furniture the room contains the less hunting after recreant balls is entailed on the players, but much can be done by covering up crevices with cushions and rugs. A sideboard with a few inches of empty space between itself and the floor seems an irresistible magnet to draw the balls under. But roll up a rug, and make a wedge of it along the entrance to this enticing hollow, so as to bar the way for even the most insinuating of balls, and see what a lot of trouble and temper will be saved. ...

I must just find space to tell you of the aluminium racquets to be found at Messrs. Gamage's, of Holborn. The first lot of these were made shiny, and though an exceedingly pretty toy, were found also practical racquets for slogging in hard balls. They possessed the drawback, however, of making it very difficult to put a cut on the service balls. A later development of this idea has now been evolved, and the aluminium is roughed or frosted with admirable effect. They are made in three different weights, and the heavy ones in particular bang the balls over with a force and velocity which renders them well-nigh untakable, while giving forth only the faintest sound.

The Lady

30 January 1902

V.

A QUESTION on which I find rampant a vast amount of disagreement is that of the serve. Whereas some players devote almost their entire energies to the delivery of a fierce and devastating serve wherewith to rout their enemies, others maintain the serve to be but of secondary importance. These latter are content to send over fairly easy balls, that they may run no shadow of a risk of going out or into the net. The fact that no first fault is permitted, as it is in lawn-tennis, not unnaturally makes one somewhat chary of throwing away a point by attempting a deadly serve, which may miss fire altogether. I have known players who spend hours almost daily in practising a variety of effective serve

EARLY MAGAZINE ARTICLES

strokes, yet when it comes to the actual test of a competition they grow too nervous, and are too miserly of their points to dare to venture on exploiting them, but simply lop over sure and easy balls.

If all players followed these tactics, competitions would grow very tedious, and the game would soon lose its power of drawing gate-money. With brilliant and daring strokes, whether serves or returns, the interest of spectators is aroused, and is kept ever on the increase.

New York Evening World **6 February 1902**



Advertisement by Siegel Cooper Co, Sixth Avenue.

The Lady **6 February 1902**

VI.

WHEN a pastime attains to the dignity of having given birth to a journal entirely devoted to its interests, it may surely be taken as an indication that the said pastime has come—well, if not “to stay,” at any rate on a very long visit. So vast and incalculable an influence, however, has fashion, not only upon the attire of us moderns, but upon every act of our life, that it would be a bold prophet indeed who should venture to foretell the fate in store some months hence for the fad, or craze, or fancy dearest to our hearts to-day.

But to return to the ping-pong journal, which, by the way, favours the rival name while making a plea for unity. It is called “The Table-Tennis and Pastimes Pioneer,” which latter portion seems a wholly unnecessary prolongation, seeing that the entire subject matter is devoted to the interests of ping-pong, and of no other pastime whatsoever. It is a modest little sheet of four pages, but makes announcement that the number will be increased “as required by the call upon our space.” ...

On the whole, wood racquets seem to be at present in the ascendancy, and if you want a large choice of these or any other kind, you should hunt through the inexhaustible store of table-tennis accessories to be found at Messrs. Gamage’s, of Holborn. Their wood racquets start from ninepence each, but rise in price according to quality and finish. The “Pencil Cedar,” with short felt handle, is an exceedingly nice model. Similar ones “French polished” look very smart, but are rather too shiny to be effective in getting good cuts on the ball unless one side, for the service, should be covered with fine sand-paper, which would effect a very business-like combination.

But the “Patent Lock-frame Battledore,” made from specially selected wood, is a very superior article, and a dangerous weapon in the hands of an expert player. This bat can be had covered with vellum, cork, or sand-paper, and I should scarcely like to say which combination of

material would be likely to prove the more efficacious. The cork face is enjoying a large measure of popularity, and it certainly seems to get a good grip of the ball, and either drive it over straight and true, or put a malicious twist on if so desired. The “Real Vellum” to be found at this establishment is a first-class bat, and also the aluminium with the new rough surface I have already spoken of. I hear, by the way, that such racquets were used in the finals of the Welcome Club Tournament at the Alexandra Palace.

Probably the best, and certainly the smartest-looking, “picker-up” is Gamage’s Polished Fluted Celluloid in black or white (see advertisement in *The Queen* above), which has precisely the effect of ribbed ivory, except that it’s much lighter to hold. Without any trouble of stooping or groping about in corners, it picks up and holds as many as sixteen balls at one time. A cheaper variety of this invention, but one of just as great practical usefulness, is made of stiff card-board, prettily covered, and can be had for eightpence halfpenny. A variety of other picker’s-up are also to be found. The “side wings” are a very convenient invention for those persons who have already got nets which they now find too narrow. I should just like to mention in conclusion, that a complete set for the nursery, with posts, battledores, balls, etc., can now be obtained for ninepence. We shall be hearing next of babies playing “table-tennis” from their nurses’ arms before they are able to stand alone.

The Lady **13 February 1902**

VII.

..... To the variation in the shape and fashioning of racquets there is no end. A pattern I have seen used a good deal lately is the completely circular shape, with no narrowing graduation down towards the handle. I do not detect any special advantage in it, but it is popular with those players who do not play very short, but grasp their implement of war solely by its handle. Those—and this category includes most of the crack players—who hold their bat very short, with thumb and forefinger on either side of its face, strongly disapprove of this design, as they find the ball is apt to encounter the encroaching fingers.

The Lady **20 February 1902**

VIII.

..... In ping-pong, as in all other games, a bad style is as easily acquired as a good style, and, once indulged in, is exceedingly difficult to get rid of. Players will now have a great advantage within their reach, as a ping-pong and a table-tennis book have followed close on the heels of “The Table-Tennis Pioneer.” It seems, by the way, to be matter for general regret that there



MR. ARNOLD PARKER,
THE PING-PONG CHAMPION.
(Photo by Fall, Baker Street, W.)

EARLY MAGAZINE ARTICLES

should be the two "Associations," but since "Ping-Pong" is a registered title, belonging only to two firms, while "Table-Tennis" is open to all the world to use, there seems little hope of either side giving way.

..... Since all players are more or less keen on self-improvement, and many find it difficult to get the opportunity of practice, they will doubtless be glad to know that the management at Niagara Hall have started a "school" where incipient ping-pongists may study the cult of the celluloid ball with an expert. [TTC 80/20]

New York Evening World 25 February 1902



Advertisement by Siegel Cooper Co, Sixth Avenue.

The Lady 27 February 1902

IX.

ONE of the best proofs that ping-pong will not be a short-lived craze, but has come to stay, lies in the fact that new clubs are springing into existence in every direction, and people do not take the trouble to obtain premises and organise clubs for the furtherance of an entirely ephemeral fancy. But in this respect the suburb dwellers have hitherto been far more fortunate than Londoners, doubtless owing to the extreme difficulty of obtaining suitable club-rooms anywhere in the Metropolis. The outlying suburbs, such as Hendon, Chiswick, Dulwich, Streatham, Harlesden, Bromley, Ealing, and many others, boast flourishing clubs and crack players, who make a good show at the London Tournaments. The last-named suburb is the home of many enthusiasts, and positively abounds in clubs.

Then, in addition to the special organisations for the sole purpose of affording facilities for the new game, many old-established clubs provide one or more tables for the convenience of their general members. Tea shops, restaurants, hotels, inns, and, in fact, all kinds of public places where space can be found, are now furnished with ping-pong tables and accessories, where all and sundry devotees of the game may freely and happily disport themselves at very slight expenditure. But, in spite of this, there has been up to now an absolute dearth of opportunity for ladies to play anywhere but in their own or their friends' houses, which rarely possess either room or table of regulation size.

At last, however, a club has made its appearance in the West-End of London which promises to fulfil all requirements. The Hyde Park Ping-Pong Club has its headquarters in the spacious and handsome Elysée Galleries, Queen's Road, Kensington Gardens. Finer premises for the purpose could not be desired, and the situation is extremely convenient, for the Galleries stand just between the Queen's Road Metropolitan Station and Queen's Road Tube Station, and scarce a couple of minutes from either. Although every effort will be made by an efficient Committee to keep the roll of members socially select, an extremely moderate subscription has been wisely resolved upon—at all events, at the commencement—with the additional convenience of permitting intending members to join for the half season if preferred. [TTC 84/18]

I have just seen two new bats, of entirely different shape, both possessed of certain possibilities. One had its wooden face grooved out, as it were, on either side of the handle, so that the fingers with the bat held short fitted close up round the face without actually encroaching upon it. The other bore practically no relation to our preconceived notions of a ping-pong racquet. It was made more after the fashion of a small painter's palette, the "handle" being formed by an oval hole to pass the fingers through, in the way that a palette has a hole to pass the thumb through. It would probably allow great freedom of movement to get on from one stroke to another, but whether it would tend to accelerate fast, hard play is uncertain. [TTC 84/21]

The way that doubles are now frequently played gives the notion of a romp far more than of a real game—that is, when one racquet is used between two players, neither of whom is permitted to take more than a single stroke in succession. One of your opponents serves to you. You take the ball or miss it, as the case may be, and bang down your racquet for your partner to take up and return the ball as it comes over the net again. Until you get into the way of it, it is exceedingly difficult to recollect to hand over your racquet after each stroke, and much shouting and snatching is the usual accompaniment of this class of game.

New York Evening World

22 May 1902

The Incomparable Gustav Rehberger - Part III

In editions 88 and 89 of the Table Tennis History Journal I was delighted to introduce our readers to the incomparable Gustav Rehberger, who was not only a fine Table Tennis player, but also a renowned artist, whose works included many with Table Tennis motif. Below are 3 additional works, capturing the intensity of attack and defense. For additional information and a fine gallery of Gustav's art, visit: <https://www.gustavrehbergerfineart.com>

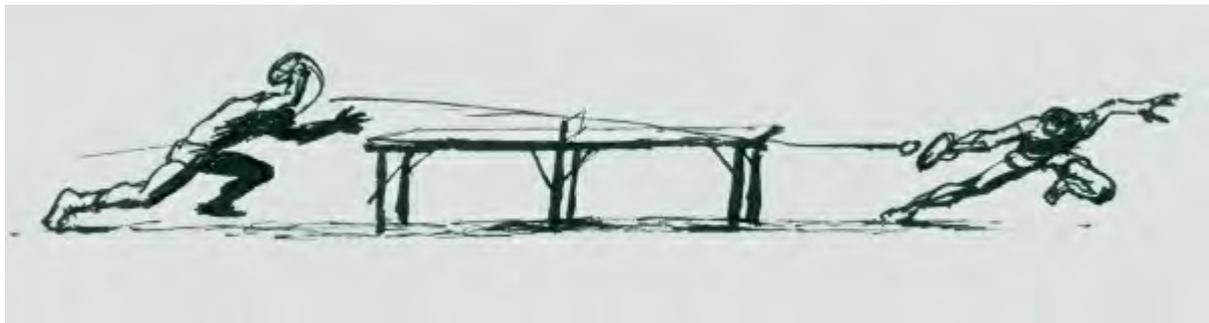


TABLE TENNIS EXHIBITION:
NORDHEM vs. REHBERGER
 November 13th, 6:30 p. m.
 in the main studio of STANDARD STUDIOS INC.
 540 N. MICHIGAN AVE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO WATCH THE WORLD'S FASTEST INDOOR SPORT—**TABLE TENNIS** . . . AS EXHIBITED BY TWO EXPERTS ALVIN NORDHEM AND GUSTAV REHBERGER

NORDHEM a brilliant offensive player has held practically every title in the middle west—his backhand "lick" ranks among the nation's best.
REHBERGER well known Chicago artist is one of the game's best defensive players—his forehand "kill shot" is considered the hardest in table tennis.



THE BATTLE OF THE CENTURY—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2 P. M.

YOU ARE INVITED to witness "the world's fastest indoor sport" as played by two well known tournament players, Gustav Rehberger and Alvin Nordhem. Rehberger, a well known Chicago artist, is also an international player and is frequently called the "Babe Ruth of table tennis" because of his terrific drives. Nordhem, probably the best player in Illinois, is a master strategist and is famed for his uncanny accuracy. These two lads will put on an exhibition match on the center court at our plant next Saturday. Come on over—bring your family or your friends—and see what a fast and furious game table tennis is when played by experts.

HOW THEY COMPARE	
REHBERGER	NORDHEM
Terrific forehand drive	Splendid back hand
Air tight defense	Uncanny accuracy
Agile foot work	Master strategist
<i>It's Power versus Finesse, Folks</i>	

D F KELLER & CO, 3005 FRANKLIN BOULEVARD (THIRTY HUNDRED WEST...FOUR HUNDRED NORTH)

Now let's meet Gustav Rehberger in action, in 1943 - he was often referred to as the Babe Ruth of table tennis. His game was described as "terrific forehand drives, air tight defense and agile footwork." He used Johnny Leach and Hock hardbats.



EARLY PIRATED IMAGES

By Jorge Arango

Continuation

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

34. ZULU MAIDENS POSTCARDS

There are three main versions of these postcards. Although it is not stated (except on one of them), I think the postcards were printed in Great Britain. Some of the postcards are from the Christian Klaus' collection.

34.1 Two players. These are the most common postcards, with several versions, and were listed in the Hoey/Haggett catalog as from February 09, 1903.



Above left: A hand-colored postcard, with the name Ping Pong at the center bottom. At the left bottom corner are the letters S, E, C, D, which signify Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban, the publisher. **Above right:** Another hand-colored postcard. The caption is "Two to love." Both postcards with undivided back.

Below left: The caption is "A friendly game." **Below right:** Caption omitted. Both also with undivided back.





Above Left: “Who said Ping-Pong’s dead?” Postcard printed in Great Britain, divided back, posted in Transvaal. **Above right:** Rare postcard with the wording “Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban” at the left edge, posted at July 04, 1904, undivided back.

Below left: “Ping Pong – South Africa”, a very rare postcard, with undivided back (Christian Klaus’ collection). **Below right:** Another version of a “Friendly Game,” not hand-colored. Divided back and posted in Adelaide, in 1910.



Left: A recent pirated copy (taken from Internet) from a very rare postcard: At the left side is the label “Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johug”. (Johannesburg.). At the bottom “Ping Pong,” in red.

34.2 Two players and a spectator.



Above left: A very rare postcard, ITTF museum, “Zulu maidens at Ping Pong.” **Above right:** A pirated image from a German magazine, “Negermädchen beim Ping-Pong Spiel” (Black girls at Ping-Pong.) To be noted: the breast of the girls were modified!

34.3 Two players and three spectators. Hoey/Haggett list these postcards in February 08, 1904.



Above left: With the wording “Ping Pong” in red, at the center of the bottom, and the Publisher at the left side. Hand painted and undivided back. **Above right:** With “Ping Pong” at the left bottom corner.

Below left: A pirated postcard. “Ping Pong,” in white, at bottom left. Divided back, and Printed by S. S. & Co., Blackpool. **Below right:** “Playing Ping-Pong,” undivided back.



Above left: Ping Pong in red, Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban. Posted in England, June 27, 1904. **Above right:** "Ping Pong" on center above.

Below: Two cards in which the breast of the women were covered!



35. SANTA CLAUS

MAKE YOUR OWN TERMS.



Saturday
Last day before inventory. Special sale of Ping Pong and Table Tennis Sets.

New England Furniture & Carpet Co.

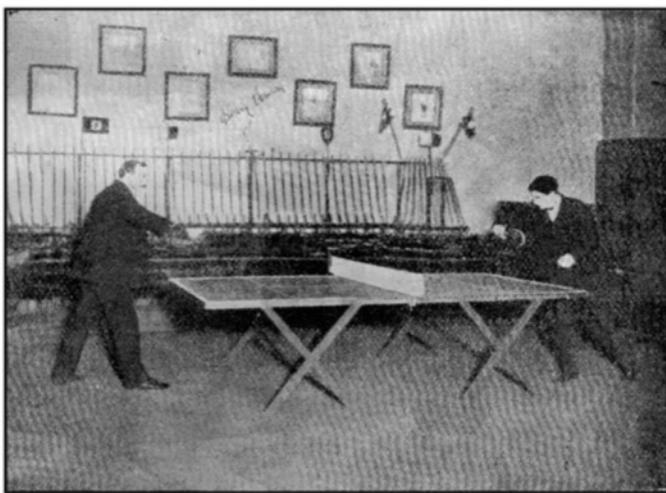
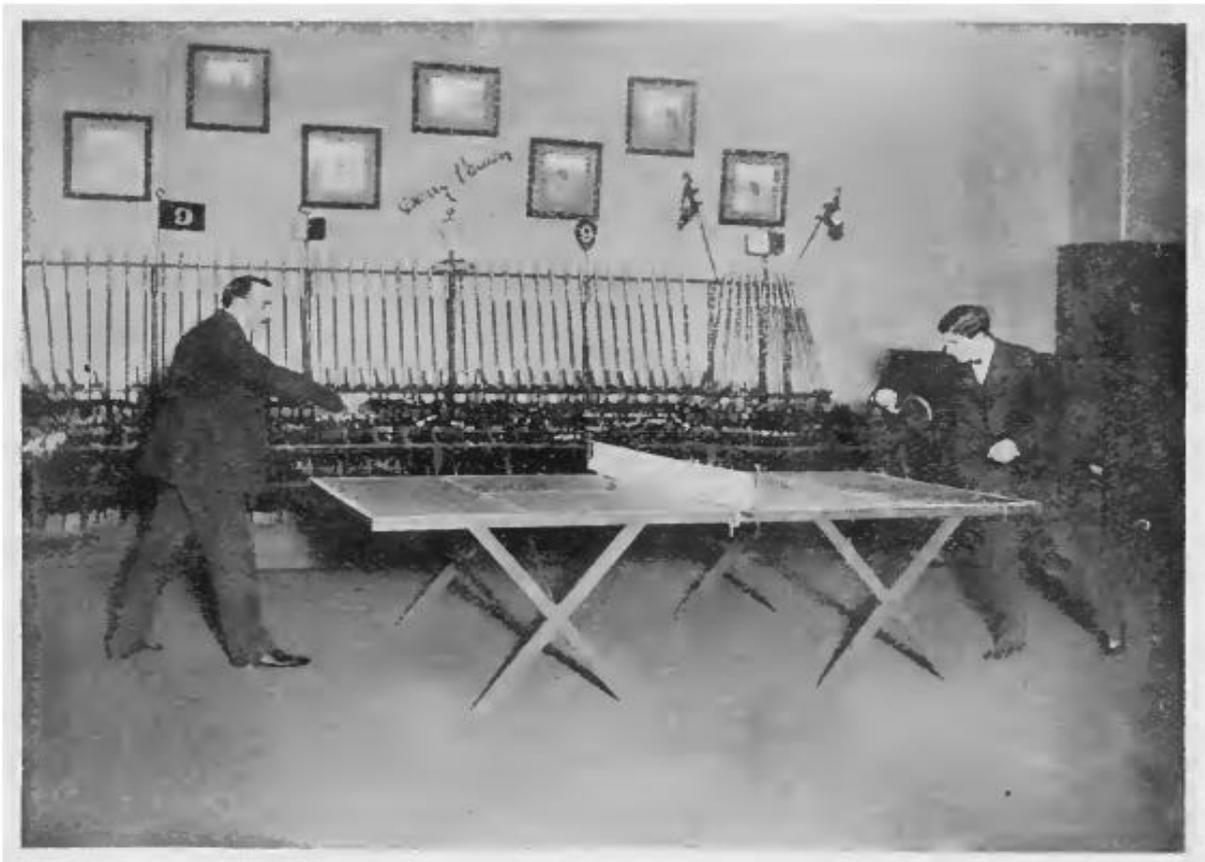
EVEN _____



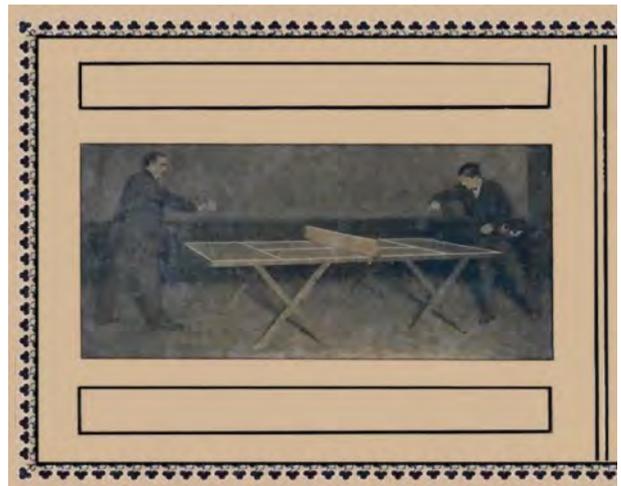
SANTA CLAUS
Has Caught the Fever—PING PONG is the Game of the Season.
— You will find it in Four Styles and Prices at —
WARE'S TOY ANNEX Y, M, C, A, BUILDING.

Left: The Minneapolis Journal, January 30, 1903. **Right:** New Rochelle Pioneer, December 13, 1902 (Grant's book.)

36. PING-PONG AND HOW TO PLAY IT



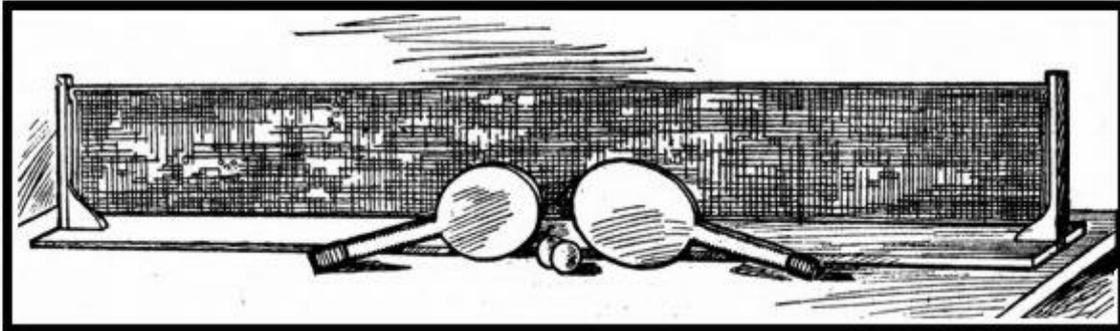
Ping-Pong and How to Play It.



Above: An image from the Spalding's book "Table Tennis". **Below left:** an image from the newspaper "The Australian Cyclist and Motor-Car World." **Below right:** an image from a Spalding's boxed set. I think all of the images were pirated from an unknown source. In the boxed set, the pictures on the wall were suppressed.

37. A HOMEMADE PING PONG SET

HOW TO MAKE A PING PONG SET.



A HOME-MADE PING PONG SET.

Of course, our little friends have heard all about the popular new game of ping pong, and many of them are very expert players, no doubt. Lots of them would become expert if they had a chance to play, and of this number very many are so placed that they are unable to get a ping pong set. Here is a way to make one of your own that you can have lots of fun with, and which, of course, you will value more highly than a purchased one.

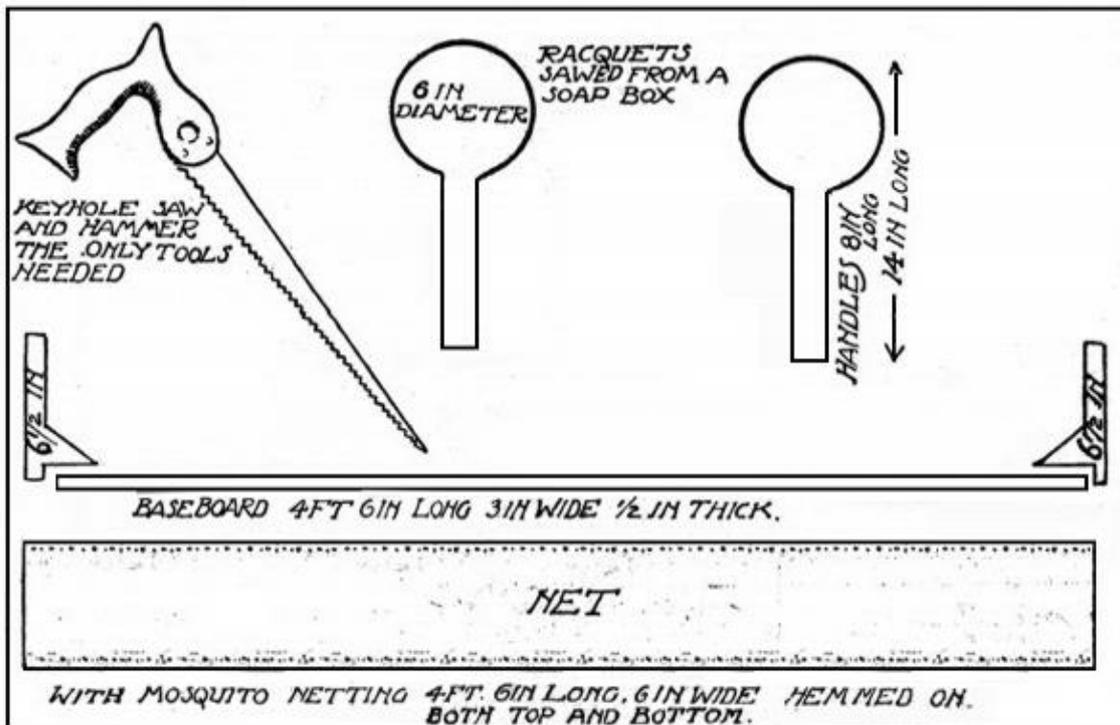
For less than 25 cents it is quite easy to manufacture a ping pong set quite the equal in all essential points of the most expensive sold in the stores.

The net is of mosquito netting, white by preference, although green with a top band

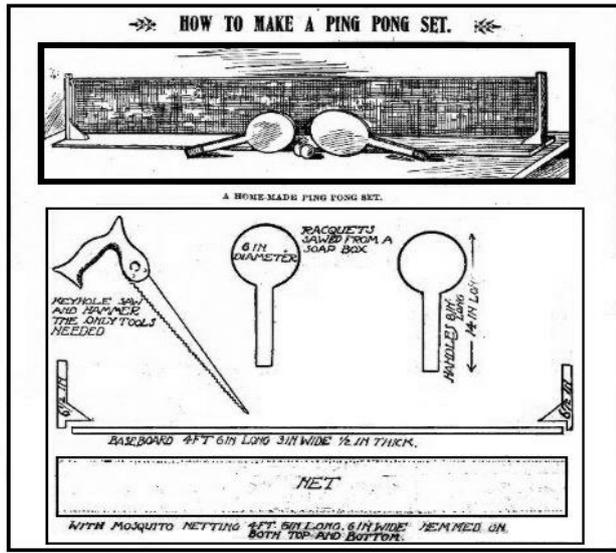
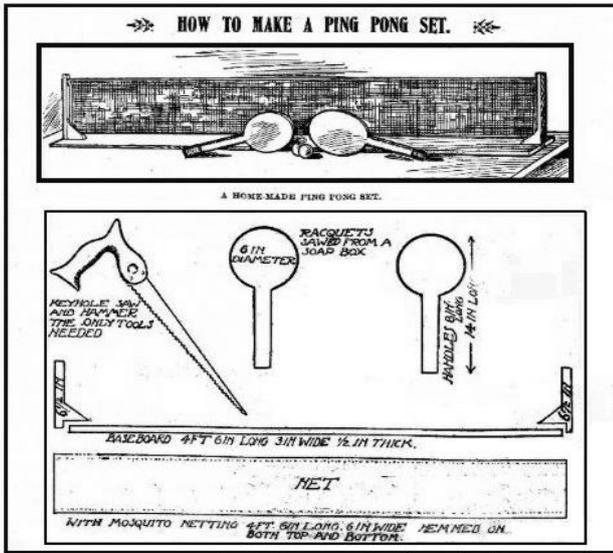
of white tape is more attractive in appearance. This should be four and a half feet long and six inches wide, and hemmed on top and bottom. The net is supported by two wooden posts, half an inch square, cut from the top or side of a soap box, each having a footlike projection on one side to strengthen it. These posts are nailed one on either end of a strip of thin board four and a half feet long and three inches wide. This arrangement does away with the necessity for clamps. The net is stretched on a piece of light wire, running from post to post.

The racquets are cut from the top or side of a soap box with a compass saw. Such a saw can be bought for 15 cents. The wood

should be sound and free from knots and not more than half an inch thick. The face of the racquet is six inches in diameter, more or less. Some players prefer it round, as in the illustration; others, and by far the greater number, like an oval or oblong shape. The handles should be eight inches long. After sawing, trim the edges of the handles with a penknife, but care should be taken not to trim them too much, or the reduction in the weight will spoil the "balance" of the racquet. An inverted saucer will serve as a pattern to mark out a circle for sawing. Balls must be purchased at a store. They cost four cents each. Two will do to begin with.

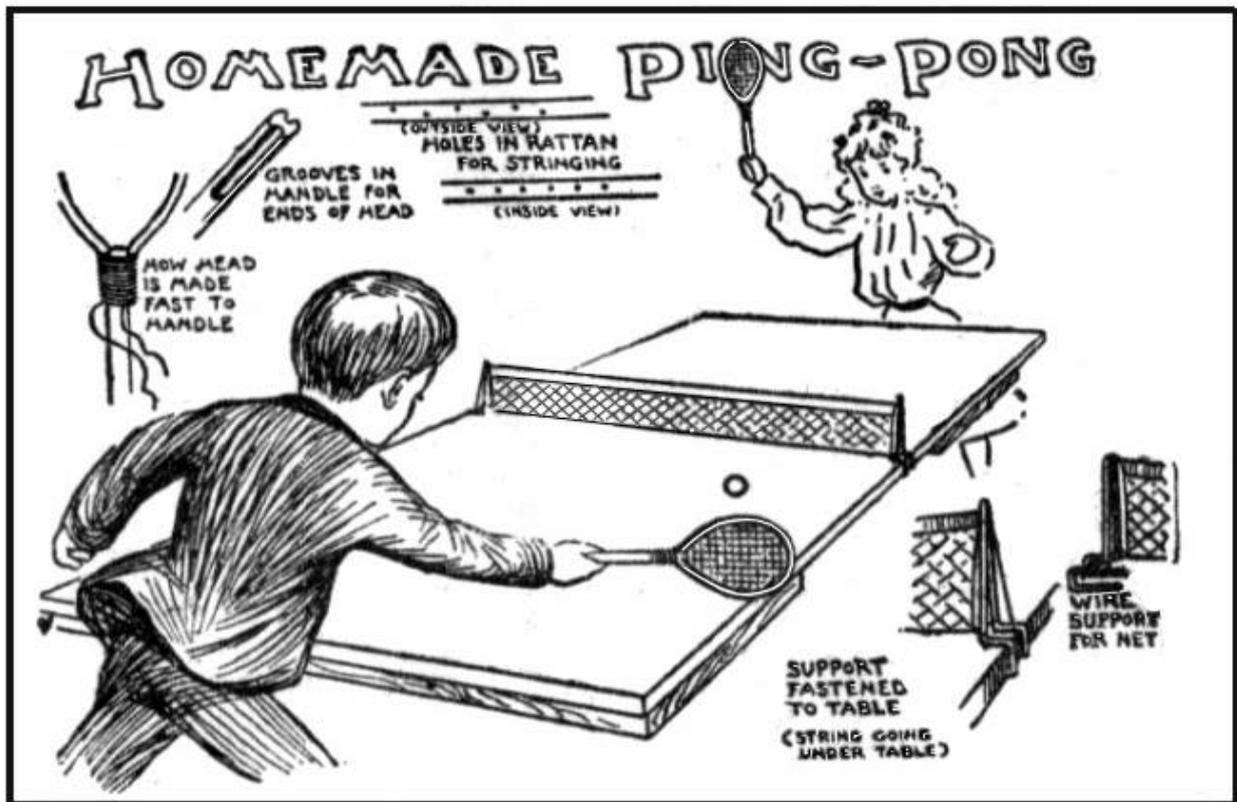


The Washington Times, June 1, 1902.

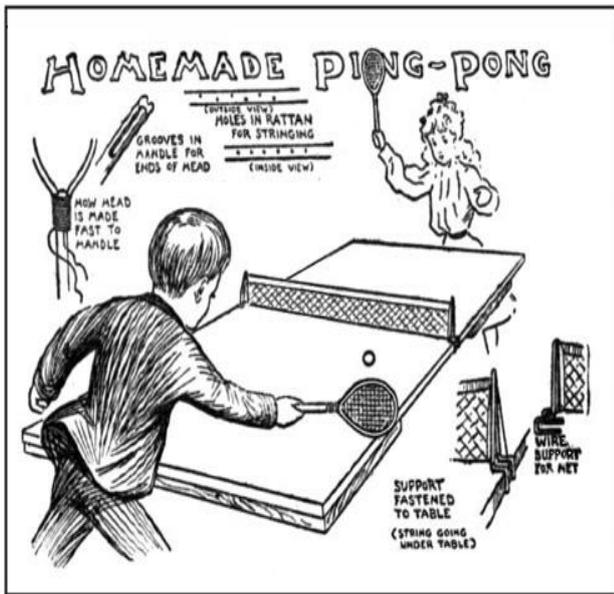


The Labor World, September 20, 1902, and The Inter-Mountain Farmers and Ranches, June 03, 1902 (I suppressed the texts.) The respective newspaper pages of the three images are almost equals, and the headers are the same. I found the Inter-Mountain perhaps was related with the Washington Times, but not with The Labor.

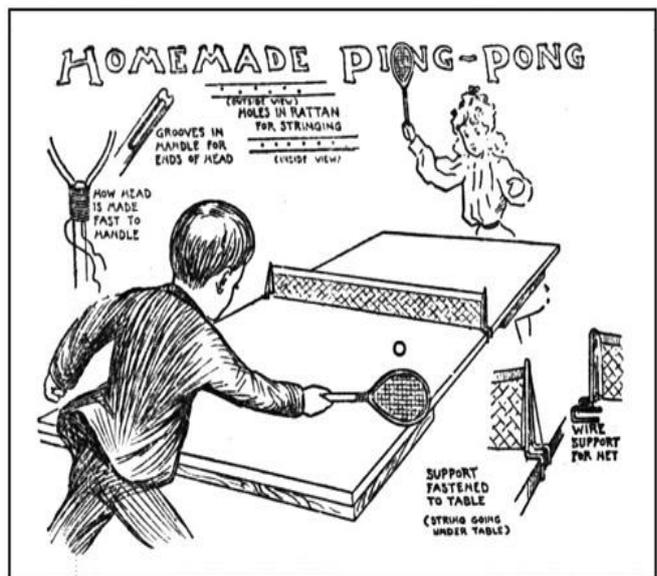
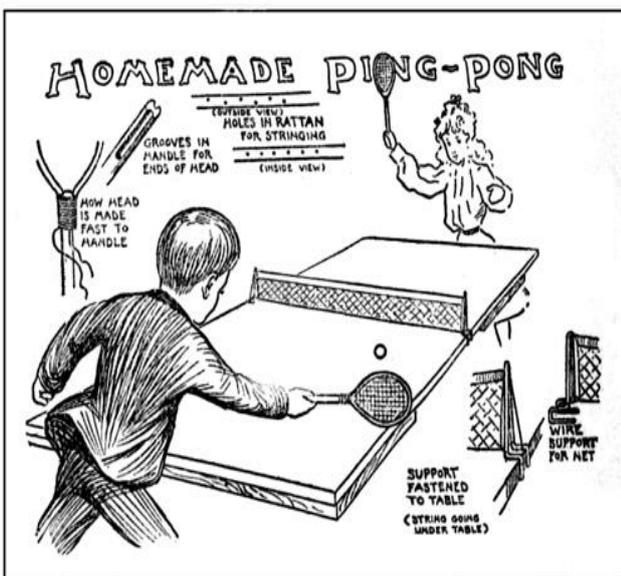
38. HOMEMADE PING-PONG



The Suburban Citizen, May 10, 1902



Left: The Washington Globe, May 11, 1902. **Right:** The Abbeville Press and Banner, May 21, 1902



Left: Freeland Tribune, July 07, 1902. **Right:** The Camdem Chronicle, June 06, 1902.

Other equal images were presented in Democratic and Chronicle, March 23, 1902 (the first of the images), Edgefield Advertiser, June 04, 1902, and The New Enterprise, June 05, 1902.

An article published in the newspapers Washington Standard, on March 28, 1902, and in the Waterbury Evening Democrat, May 21, 1902, consider the same topic.

Perhaps, there are more similar images; by all ways, with seven images they are among the most pirated ones.

39. HOMEMADE PING-PONG - TEXT

HOMÉ-MADE PING PONG.

Some Directions for Making a Complete Outfit for Table Tennis.

Of all the indoor games that the writer has tried—and he has tackled about all of them—none have proved such jolly good fun as table tennis, or, as the English call it, "Ping Pong."

A first-class ping pong outfit, with two rackets that are perfect little tennis rackets on a small scale, will cost about \$4 at the shop. When it comes to a very cheap set you can probably make at home just as good an outfit and maybe better.

First, as to the rackets: In England the kind most favored have centers of parchment like a drumhead, from which the ball rebounds with that humming, ping-pong sound which gives the game its name.

The writer prefers the string racket. Pieces of rattan soaked a while in steaming hot water to make them supple, make good racket frames. A wooden handle, hollowed out at the end with grooves for the rattan frame to fit in is simply constructed. In stringing, the string used on a banjo would be about right. Two strings for each racket should be enough.

These strings should be thoroughly soaked and then used while still wet. Do not string too tightly, for if you do when the strings dry and shrink they will pull the frame all out of shape. String first across and then up and down exactly as in a regulation racket. In making a support for your net a couple of yards of heavy telegraph wire will answer. Take each length and double and bend. This of itself may not be quite staunch enough to hold the net taut, but by running a cord from the top of one wire support down and under the table to the top of the other support you should be able to obtain the necessary amount of rigidity. The net itself should be about six inches high from the table, and should clear the table enough to allow the ball to pass

easily under it. Any material will do for the net, though a gauze or netting of some kind bound at the top with an inch or two of white tape is best. As to the table itself, it should be simply a smooth and flat surface about 5x10 feet or say 4x8 feet.

The game is played exactly as tennis is played, except that there is but one court on either side of the net. If the ball strikes the very edge of the table and so bounces off in such a way that a return is impossible, call it an "edger," and serve over again.

The method of scouring is the same as in tennis. One rule of the old game which is barred because of the narrow bounds volleying. A ball can never be returned except on the bounce. Pickups, however, are allowable. Another strict ruling of ping pong is that no overhand strokes are allowed; the hand must never be raised above the height of the elbow. Also, the serve must be delivered from a point beyond the end of the table.

The tennis experts and all-round athletes have devised a new sort of racket that makes of this parlor game a rather strenuous and exciting affair.

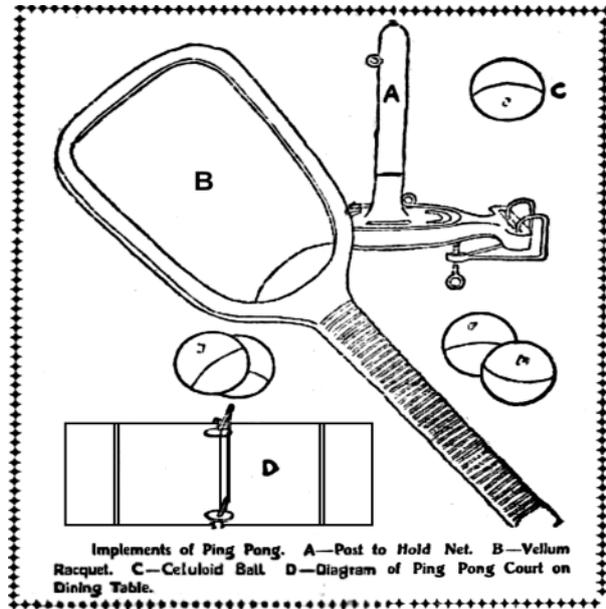
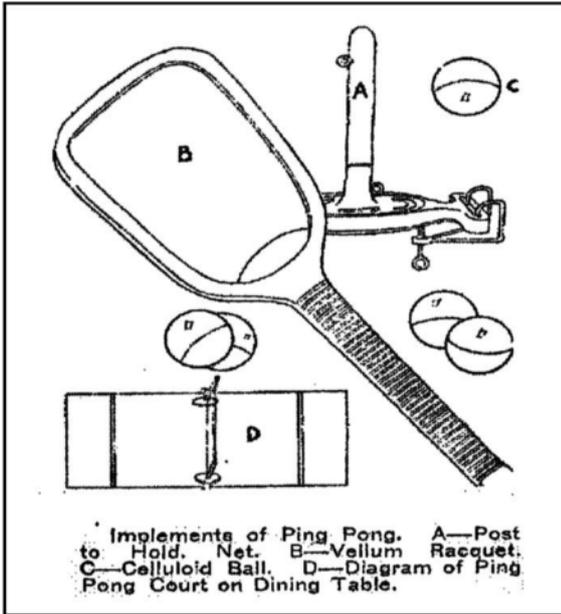
The racket is simply a wooden paddle of about the same outside dimensions as the ping pong strung racket; that is, about six inches in diameter—roughly speaking—the handle being of any desired length.

The paddle part is not of one piece with the handle, as it would break or split too easily. The handle is spliced on. The paddle—on one side or both—according to how you play, is covered with emery cloth or paper glued on carefully. With this rough surface you can cut the ball or give the "Lawford" stroke in splendid fashion.

As to balls, the best are those made of celluloid, which can be bought at any sporting or toy store for a few cents apiece.

This ping pong is really a great game, and we think it has come to stay.

40. IMPLEMENTS OF PING PONG



Left: San Francisco Examiner, March 02, 1902. **Right:** The Pacific Commercial Advertiser, March 15, 1902.

HOUSTON DAILY POST: SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 2, 1902.

THE ALL ABSORBING FAD.

"Everybody as Is Anybody" Plays "Ping-Pong"—Directions for Playing.

The Houston Daily Post, March 02, 1902.

41. THE NEW TABLE TENNIS



Above: An illustration on the interior of a lid of a boxed set (with the man player smoking.) **Below:** A German postcard; Hoey/Haggett list it on November 17, 1904.

To be continued

"Read All About It" – PART 7 (February to August 1902)

by Alan Duke

This seventh part in the series completes a fairly comprehensive look at the early years, featuring as it has a varied selection of articles, adverts and oddments from the very many published. Here, February to March 1902 is covered in a similar, fairly detailed way, followed by a few summer oddments illustrating the continuation of the craze (and its spread to the United States). The next part, with the start of a new season, will include articles on the service law and proposed amalgamations between the two national associations.

Yorkshire Evening Post

4 February 1902

[It is suggested by a "pastimes" journal that the Chancellor of the Exchequer may impose a tax on Ping-pong.]

A Ping-pong tax? Absurd!—And yet
'Twould not be easy to attack it—
For those who play across the net
Should surely help to "stand the racket!"
—"World."

JOINT-STOCK PING-PONG.

Ping-pong has now been formally introduced to Somerset House, a company bearing the name of the Table Tennis Cafes (Limited)¹, having been registered with a capital of £100. These cafes will presumably (says a joker) be noted for their smart service.

Pall Mall Gazette

4 February 1902

THE ORIGIN OF TABLE TENNIS.

"Table tennis has come to stay." This is the declaration of Messrs. Colley and Mainland, the authors of a treatise on the game published by the *Evening News* (Limited.) Perhaps they are right, for the game unquestionably supplies a want that has long been felt in the home circle. It is just as well, therefore, that those who play it should play properly and have some inkling of its niceties. Constant practice is, of course, the only way in which to acquire proficiency, but useful hints may be picked up by reading what experts have to say, and to this extent "How to Win at Table Tennis" is likely to be of considerable service to ambitious ping-pongers.

"Table Tennis and How to Play It," by Messrs. M. J. G. Ritchie and Walter Harrison, which is published by C. Arthur Pearson (Limited) is another volume that should prove useful to budding champions, for it contains much information and advice calculated to improve one's form. In the course of an introductory chapter we find the following account of the "discovery" of the game:—When the Nondescript cricket team were on tour in August, 1900, they experienced continuously bad weather, and the members were at a loss to know how to pass their time. One of them introduced some battledores, a celluloid ball and a net. The latter was rigged up on a table, and the members of the team found themselves so fascinated with the game and its possibilities that the abandonment of the cricket was more than atoned for. On reaching town several gentlemen continued playing, and eventually the Cavendish Club was formed with at first a membership of some six or eight [*TTH 82, page 22*]. This club, having its headquarters at Armfield's Hotel in Finsbury, quickly attained its full complement of members, and was followed in rapid succession by others at Bloomsbury House, Upper Clapton, and elsewhere.

Hull Daily Mail 5 Feb. 1902

A SKETCH FROM LOCAL LIFE.

(BY ONE OF OUR SPECIAL ARTISTS.)

AT TABLE No. 2
(LADIES' SINGLES).
Sketched at the St. Matthew's Church
Ping-Pong Tournament, Central Hall,
Tuesday 4th.



Daily Express 6 Feb. 1902

DANGERS OF PING-PONG.

"A GAME THAT MAY CAUSE OUR DECAY AS A NATION."

It is suggested that the present craze for ping-pong is a sign of national decay, and that the "manly sports" may suffer by it.

The other day at one of the table tennis tournaments at the Royal Aquarium the amateur strong man of England was toying with a parchment racket instead of lifting giant dumb-bells.

Suburban athletes have forsaken football and golf to foregather in a stuffy club-room on Saturday afternoons and trifle with a celluloid ball.

But the cruellest blow of all to British pride is that the National Sporting Club has invested in a championship ping-pong table, and amateur boxers have been seen glaring at each other, not across the ring, but over a miniature net.

It is terrible to think that the time may come when the dull sound of one man punching another into a human jelly in the club ring may give place to the trivial tapping noise of a table tennis tournament.

Sensational reports were published yesterday that two stockbrokers, one of whom was a member of the N.S.C., had played off a ping-pong match at the club with the result that £2,000 changed hands. The two players were Mr. Durham Stokes and Mr. Eugene Corri. [*TTH 85/44*]

Mr. Stokes emphatically denies the reports. "Mr. Corri and I had a friendly game at the club, of which he is a member. We played for £25. There were twenty or thirty people present."

The game was certainly an exciting one, the match being the best of five sets of 30 points. Twice the score was level, and when the match was two all it was "anyone's game." Mr. Corri, however, won the match by three sets to two.

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Daily Express

7 February 1902

The Literary Side of Ping-Pong.

IT was inevitable that sooner or later the gentle game of table tennis, as latter-day exquisites delight to term the pastime of the hour, or ordinary ping-pong, as the less fastidious call it, should develop a literature of its own.

When the game not only bids fair to invade the sacred precincts of the Palace of Westminster, but even succeeds in finding a home in some of our more luxurious work-houses; when "colleges" are established for its especial cultivation, and when more or less gorgeous uniforms are designed for those who play it, it is but fitting that the humble author should lightly turn his thoughts to recording the history and development of so all-pervading a pastime.

Two books, which will doubtless prove to be the heralds of scores to follow, have just been issued. The price of both is the same, namely, a shilling, but the game is treated from almost opposite points of view by the two writers.

"Ping-Pong: The Game, and How to Play It" (T. Fisher Unwin), is, as the title implies, especially designed for the benefit of the uninitiated.

All the rules and the various methods of playing are very clearly set forth [and are quoted extensively, with illustrations].



In "Table Tennis and How to Play It" (C. Arthur Pearson, Limited) the game is treated in a more

scientific manner. The thoroughness with which the theme is handled may be gathered from the fact that the authors enter exhaustively into the history of the game, as well as clearly setting forth all the various rules that have so far been invented for playing it [again, accompanied by extracts and diagrams].

A PLEA FOR VOLLEYING.

The authors have some marks to offer on the subject of volleying. There is little doubt, they say, that the lawn tennis player generally exhibits rather superior style in the game of table tennis as compared with those who have only played the latter.

The lawn tennis player usually has a much freer style, with longer and harder drives, and is not so inclined to play the "stone-wall" game, which is characteristic of so many.

It is this latter feature that presents a serious handicap to the game, and, in the author's opinion, "volleying" will have to be introduced in some shape or form to mitigate this.

Western Gazette

7 February 1902

Has the craze for Ping-Pong, or "Table Tennis," taken its hold upon you yet? Everyone has it badly in London, and every other person you meet is going in for some tournament, they usually carry their own rackets about with them. The best are made of wood with cork handles. If you want to give your friends a pleasant evening you cannot do better than ask them to a Ping-Pong tournament, and provide suitable presents for the winners—these give the necessary excitement to the play, and you will find your friends have spent an enjoyable evening. You only want to have light refreshments in another room, such as sandwiches, patties, and small little things you can get from a confectioner or caterer. Also jellies, blanc-mange, tipsy cake, ices, fondants, and so on. If you do not possess a set of Ping-Pong take my advice and buy one, it is an excellent amusement for a winter's evening, and always something to ask your friends in to.

JOSEPHINE.

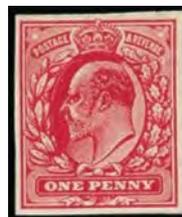
The South Western Star

7 February 1902



South Bucks Standard

7 February 1902



"A Ping-Pong Enthusiast writes to call my attention to the fact that in the top corners of the new postage stamps appears a "Ping-Pong ball!" [Left is the stamp to which I presume he was referring!!] From this he draws the conclusion that "Ping-Pong" has had the stamp of royalty!"

The same correspondent also sent me a newspaper cutting which records the fact that a gentleman residing at Peckham Rye recently made an offer to the Guardians of the Borough of Camberwell to present the inmates of the Constance-road Workhouse (the principal poorhouse of the borough) with a dozen "sets" of Ping-Pong. A special meeting was called by the Guardians to consider the matter, and the resolution that the novel present be accepted was carried without opposition.

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Daily Express

10 February 1902

Faringdon Advertiser

15 February 1902

A HANDBOOK TO PING-PONG.
JUST OUT!!
TABLE-TENNIS
TABLE-TENNIS
TABLE-TENNIS

AND HOW TO PLAY IT.
With Rules and Several Illustrations.
By **M. J. G. RITCHIE**
(Of the All-England Table Tennis Club),
and
WALTER HARRISON
(Of the Cavendish Table Tennis Club).
Cloth. Price One Shilling, or post free One Shilling
and Two pence.

Leeds Mercury

11 February 1902

[In an article publicising a Ping-pong Tournament taking place at the Town Hall, Leeds, on 19th February, there was mention, unusually, of a restriction in the type of bat that could be used.] Any racquet, except that gut-strung, is permissible. The parchment racquet is now practically abandoned, and wood (sometimes faced with cork and sand paper) is the one solely used.

Daily Express

11 February 1902

THE PING-PONG DOLL.

I was interested to hear that there has been an addition to the "ping-pong" doll family. The latest arrival is called the "Ping-Pong Oddity," and is very fascinating in his ugly way. I do not think that there is any fear of the "ping-pong" dolls getting out of date for a long time to come, now that the game has obtained such a hold over even the younger generation. I saw a tiny girl with a racquet and ball playing in the park the other day. She hit the ball, but always failed to catch it. At last she cried sadly, "I can ping, Mummy, but I cannot pong."

Daily Express

12 February 1902

PING-PONG IN PARIS.

The first ping-pong tournament in Paris is going on at the Tennis Club's premises. There are thirty-two competitors, among them being two or three of the best-known tennis players. [TTH 85/46]

Daily Express

14 February 1902

Ping-Pong in Germany.

The Germans, although they do not take kindly to football or cricket, have welcomed ping-pong with open arms into the Vaterland. A championship tournament was held recently by the first "Berliner Ping-Pong Klub," and great interest was taken among sporting men in the proceedings.

Wellington Journal

15 February 1902

DINING TABLES, which are so much used for table tennis, may be polished by rubbing them for some time with a very soft cloth and a little linseed oil. Rub well!

WHIFF WHAFF

Or, the New Game of
TABLE TENNIS.

Set complete, full-size Net and Posts, Two Parchment Covered Bats, 4 Feather-weight Balls	5/-
Full-size Set, containing Adjustable Posts and Net, Two Parchment Covered Bats, and Six Feather- Weight Balls	7/6
Superior Sets with Vellum Bats	10/6
Superior Sets with selected English Gut-String Rackets	21/-
Twelve Feather-Weight Balls in case	1/8

C. LUKER & CO., Stationers, FARINGDON

Folkestone Herald

15 February 1902

Wm. Dean & Co.,

"PING-PONG" TABLES,

ADJUSTABLE TO ANY TABLE.

Made to order from 37/6.

68, SANDGATE ROAD.

Folkestone

'Ping=Pong'

(By Permission.)

Club.

OPEN DAILY

From 9 a.m. till 10 p.m.,

At PARSONS'S LIBRARY,

SANDGATE ROAD.

The Latest Wood or Vellum Racquets
and Balls Provided.

TOURNAMENTS ARRANGED.

Walsall Advertiser

15 February 1902

PING PONG.

THIS NEW AND FASCINATING GAME HAS LEAPT INTO
POPULARITY AMONGST THE NOBILITY AND GENTRY OF THE
COUNTRY. THE FIRST PUBLIC TABLES IN WALSHALL ARE NOW
OPENED AT

"THE CRITERION," STAFFORD STREET.

TABLE TENNIS IS A GAME OF SCIENCE AND SKILL, SURPASSING
BILLIARDS IN THE FINE EXERCISE IT AFFORDS. 907-16

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Leeds Mercury

15 February 1902

A large advertisement (plus Order Form) was printed for "How to Win at Table Tennis", published that day, price sixpence, post free from the newspaper. Consisting of 80 pages and 'compiled by gentlemen thoroughly acquainted with the history of the game' (William Colley and Leslie G Mainland), it contained 'everything you want to know, and NOTHING YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW'.

Daily Express

17 and 19 February 1902

POLYTECHNIC, Regent-street. Daily, at 3 and 8.
West's Marvellous Animated Photos
OUR NAVY. A NEW EDITION.
How Jack plays Ping Pong.

Pall Mall Gazette

18 February 1902

One Dozen
"Globe" Polish
Celluloid Seamless
Balls for Ping Pong
or Table Tennis,
Post Free, 6d.

These balls are guaranteed regulation size, and are equal in every respect to the best Celluloid Balls now on the market. They are offered for sale by the Proprietors at the well-known "Globe" Pavilion, and are only obtainable of Messrs. E. Co. (Limited), Trellick-road, New London, E.

Manchester Courier

19 February 1902

TABLE TENNIS

NOTES AND JOTTINGS ON THE GAME.

It is gratifying to us to have our opinion endorsed by a paper of the standing of "The World." In our notes of last Wednesday we pointed out the evil of the pat-ball game, both from the player's and spectator's point of view, and we find practically the same words in the issue of our London contemporary published on the same date. We disagree with them, however, in considering that the wooden bat is responsible for the evil. There were table tennis stonewallers long before the vellum bat was superseded, and we should view with trepidation any movement—as they suggest—to confine a tournament to vellum only.

Seeing that every game has its own particular ailment—there is the tennis elbow, the golfer's wrist, and so on—ping-pong enthusiasts are on the look-out for the inevitable evil against which they have to guard. In the opinion of some it will be the "ping-pong eye," caused by playing too much and the consequent straining of that organ, but we agree—after an explanation—with the man who gave it out that "the ping-pong bruise was the thing." "Bruise! Why bruise?" "Under the furniture, hunting for the balls. Bruises, nothing easier."

An announcement for Maskelyne and Cooke's Mysteries at the Lesser Free-Trade Hall, a 'unique Entertainment, replete with refined fun and profound mystery', included in the varied programme a 'PING-PONG CONTEST by EXPERTS'. Every evening, with matinees on three days.

Brighton Gazette

20 February 1902

PING-PONG.

Ping-Pong is the phenomenon of the period. There has been no craze to equal it in the memory of the present

generation. Originally an innocent nursery recreation, it has grown into a fashionable amusement beyond compare. "Rinking" was a bit of a boom in its time; cycling became a ruling passion; and cigarette smoking is still a mania; but Ping-Pong equals all three put together. Every household has its set, all hotels and boarding houses have their tables, the game is now fully installed in all first-class public-house saloons, restaurants and tea rooms have duly provided for the demand, stores patronised by the smart society people are advertising Ping-Pong Rooms for their customers, the game has been introduced into the Workhouses, and we fully expect to hear that the London and Brighton Railway Company, yielding to the call of numerous passengers, have arranged to run Ping-Pong Cars in all their best trains. Ping-Pong, in short, is life; for what would life be without Ping-Pong! By general consent it has helped to destroy the ennui of the family circle during the long winter evenings. It has invested the afternoon tea room with the halo of romance. Maiden ladies have found yet another agency which enables them to enter into the society and companionship of bashful young men. The young man of the period, who has been rather conscience-stricken by Rudyard Kipling's reference to "flannelled fools" and "muddied oafs," has found salvation in Ping-Pong, though it is not quite certain that the distinguished author will give him absolution on that account. Commercial men, in the heat of mighty bargains, make matches for £1,000 a side. When the whirl and twirl of the giddy waltz is at its height, loving couples whose breasts heave with the emotions of the moment, agree to consort together at the Ping-Pong tables. Mr Councillor Carden is expected every moment to move the Brighton Corporation to provide Ping-Pong tables in the Municipal tea room. The Piers give us Ping-Pong on the briny ocean; and the Aquarium blends the gentle lullaby with the sonorous organ.

Newspapers are very conservative institutions. When an innovation is on the boards they look at it for a long time before they come off their lofty pedestal to take notice of it. Ping-Pong, however, has tolerated no squeamish philosophy. Where it has swept the constituencies it is not going to be snuffed out or ignored by the Oracle. Hence the editorial mind is beginning to take a benevolent interest in the sport. From bald and colourless records of the score at tournaments, the journals are gradually showing an inclination to discuss Ping-Pong as a serious game. It is perceived that what was at first regarded as a childish amusement is really a pastime requiring skill. The Press now tells us that a variety of considerations have arisen as to the conditions under which it is played, and these problems are now being debated with much vigour in Ping-Pong circles. What strikes us about these arguments is that there is no finality to the possibilities of Ping-Pong. The more skilful the play becomes, the more room will there be for developments and complications. However, for the moment we have enough controversy on hand to satisfy the most ardent Ping-Pongists. The issues raised involve no less exciting themes than the legitimacy or otherwise of "volleying"; the orthodoxy of the latest make and material of the racquet; the expediency or otherwise of forming sets of four players; the shape, size, colour, and surface of the true Ping-Pong table; and the desirability of barring the so-called "stone-wall" defence.

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Above all these topics is the much-debated point whether ladies are better players than gentlemen. We have also heard it stated that gentlemen players are divided in opinion whether evening dress or a regulation suit is the most correct attire in which to participate in a tournament; while a firm of dress-makers has offered a prize for the best design for a lady's Ping-Pong blouse and skirt, "bloomers" being rigorously excluded from the competition owing to the utter failure of the garb amongst lady cyclists.

We make no pretence to being able to form a better judgment on these problems than the man in the street. It seems to us that most of them mainly resolve themselves into questions of temperament rather than of difficulty in assimilating the rules of the game to particular conditions. However, for the information of readers who wish to form a judgment on the points raised, we have consulted a player who is in touch with many of the best authorities on the game, and we set forth his opinions. Volleying, he asserts most emphatically, is bound to come. If the Association do not adopt it, there is nothing to prevent players agreeing to use the volley stroke, just as in billiards nursery cannons may be obliterated and the spot stroke barred. Volleying will, of course, lead to fast play, and none but the most agile and dexterous manipulators may be able to keep the pace. That it will destroy much of the gracefulness and the clever work on the ball now observable in first-class matches is admitted; but it is argued that with the improvement in the bats the disadvantage may be counteracted. On the question of racquets our adviser was equally emphatic. Wood is certain to be the predominant partner in the business. The most expert Ping-Pongists are having bats made from their own designs. Some of these are not unlike a wooden ladle, with a soft silky surface. The "screw" that can be put on the ball with these instruments is remarkable. For the "smashing" blows they are held to be incomparable to vellum. As to the character of the tables, every one should suit their own fancy. It stands to reason that if a man has a particular fancy he feels most comfortable when playing at a table which meets his own idea. For sighting purposes a soft green colour is highly recommended. The only remaining topic upon which our expert would express an opinion is that of fours. Table tennis being an imitation of the outdoor game, he does not see why four should not play at it; but to make the arrangement possible in private houses a special room free from extraneous furniture is almost compulsory. Such are the opinions of a competent judge on the Ping-Pong problems of the hour. We trust they may be acceptable to Brighton devotees of the sport.

London Evening News 20 February 1902

THE RULING CRAZE.

A Village where Ping-Pong is Played in Every House.

The present day passion for ping-pong is not confined to cities and towns. Just on the borders of Essex, not far from Ipswich, is the little village of Brantham, with not more than two hundred houses, and in each of these is to be found a ping-pong table with the requisite racquets and balls.

A correspondent who was passing through this little village stopped on his way to make an inquiry from the local policeman who was talking earnestly to a labourer armed with a spade and pick. Waving the would-be inquirer aside the policeman continued his discourse. "We were pretty even. We got to love all and it was his advantage. Then I let him have a drive which gave him no chance—"

Further along the road was a long row of cottages, and at two o'clock in the afternoon the aged and youthful inhabitants were busy at the new national game.

An old woman well beyond the Scriptural limit of three score and ten, was administering half volleys to a damsel not yet in her teens, and the table battle was a complete picture of youth and energy striving against wisdom and wiles. In the next cottage a cripple minus a leg, and supported by a crutch, hopped nimbly round the table, and drove and volleyed to the top of his bent, whilst several aged neighbours stood at the open door looking on in mute and open-mouthed admiration.

It is not surprising that the little village should be so enthusiastic over the new game, seeing that the staple local industry is the manufacture of xylonite from which ping-pong balls are made. In the great works around which the village has grown during the last decade every man is an expert player.

The village lives in a continual thrill of excitement as to the winner of the local monthly tournament. The devotion to ping-pong has grown to such an extent that it is expected that the next elections will be won by the most skilful players. A local enthusiast asked the question, "How did the game get down here?" ... replied "I don't know exactly. It seemed to have come all of a sudden, and it's just as if we had been playing it from our cradles. We're not novices, now. I don't suppose there are half a dozen vellum racquets in the place. Everybody has a wooden one, and wouldn't look at any other."

Pall Mall Gazette

20 February 1902

[TTH 89/8]

PING-PONG.

Write for Price List direct to the Makers,

HAMLEY BROS., (84, REGENT STREET, W.
512, OXFORD STREET, W.
LONDON. WHOLESALE—
85, & 87, HIGH HOLBORN,
W.C.)

PING-PONG SETS, containing club pattern racquets. 2s. 6d., 5s., 7s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. Postage 6d. extra. TOURNAMENT SETS. 12s. 6d., 15s., 21s., 25s., and 42s. Postage 6d. extra. JACQUES'S specially selected MATCH BALLS, as used at the Queen's Hall Tournament 1s. 6d. per dozen. Postage 4d. extra. PING-PONG BATS. Vellum, Wood, and all the latest kinds. HAMLEY'S PATENT PING-PONG TABLES (Folding).

CAUTION. The public are cautioned against purchasing cheap imitations of our game. Every set should bear our name, and contain the **OFFICIAL LAWS** of Ping-Pong.

Sole Makers—HAMLEY BROS. and JACQUES and SON.

Surrey Mirror

21 February 1902

We cannot understand why the game should be confined to two players at one table. There seems to exist no difficulty in four playing; the table could be lined out in the same way as a tennis court, and it certainly strikes us more excitement would result from a four-handed game. If necessary two tables could be placed side by side, so as to give greater space for the "courts." The game could

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

then proceed as in [lawn] tennis proper. We suggest the notion to local players for experimentation.

Mr. E. Ion Poole is bringing out a new form of table, which he has invented for table tennis. Mr. Poole is a well-known South London harrier residing in Kensington.

Swindon Advertiser 21 February 1902

PING PONG SLIPPERS

WARM easy string soles, no slipping, don't damage the carpets. Send at once for sample pair, young person's 1/6. Ladies' 1/9, Gent's 2/- per pair, carriage paid, send size required.

GREGORY & CO.,
Waterfoot, near Manchester.

A slightly earlier version of the advertisement [TTH 81/39].

Lincolnshire Chronicle 21 February 1902

THE GAME OF THE MOMENT

**PING PONG OR
TABLE TENNIS.**

COMPLETE SETS, 1/- & 2/6; Postage 4d.
5/-, 7/6, 10/6, 15/-, 21/-, 25/-; post free.

BALLS, 10½D PER DOZEN.

BATS AT VARIOUS PRICES.

J. W. RUDDOCK.
253, HIGH-STREET, LINCOLN.

SPECIAL PATTERNS OF

AT HOME CARDS,
INVITATION CARDS,
PING PONG PARTIES, ETC.

CLIFFORD THOMAS,
GENERAL & FANCY STATIONER,
HIGH BRIDGE, LINCOLN

Yorkshire Post 21 February 1902

A report on a tournament at Leeds Town Hall stated that the finals were played on a "special table – a Yorkshire invention, warranted unshrinkable", the gentlemen using "wood bats, and the ladies the large parchment variety known as bull-dog racquets." The latter wore "blouses of pink, mauve, and other colours, which just satisfied the rule against white costumes."

TABLE TENNIS.—A WIRE NET is the thing. The "Regulation" Folding Wire Net and Posts is made wholesale by **PROCTER BROS., LEEDS,** and can be had through dealers generally.

TABLE TENNIS! TABLE TENNIS!
EXCELLENT VALUE.
BUY FROM THE MANUFACTURER:—
RACQUETS, BALLS, &c., WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.
C. H. JOHNSON, Wholesale Stationer,
OPPOSITE THE CORN EXCHANGE, LEEDS.

Sheffield Evening Telegraph 21 February 1902

An aspect of the ping-pong craze is the tournament prize, says a correspondent. I have been examining the shop windows of typical silversmiths in various parts of London, with special reference to the enthusiasms of the hour. Several of them have dressed their windows exclusively with "ping-pong prizes," "table tennis souvenirs," and the like, and only in one instance was another form of amusement recognised by the use of the legend, "progressive whist prizes." The choice offered is varied, and one well-known expert seeks to utilise the intellectual mood of the table tennis player by offering as rewards miniature objects, such as thimble-size coffee services, tiny match-holders, bijou hair brushes, drawing cruets, and other such futilities. The assortments are of British origin, and up to the present I have encountered no German plated ware specifically produced for this particular trade. That there will be an influx of cheap ornaments, making use of the designs suggested naturally by the game, goes without saying, but we are not likely to see them before next winter.

Shipley Times 21 February 1902

PING-PONG !

OR TABLE TENNIS.

NEW AND DIVERTING GAME.

THE SENSATION OF THE SEASON.

FROM 1/- TO 10/6.

SEE THE WINDOW AT
ALLSOP'S NEW STATIONERY STORE,
COMMERCIAL STREET, SHIPLEY

Hull Daily Mail 24 February 1902

What is a ping-pong dance? It has thus been described. A silken net is put up in the middle of the ball-room. The ladies advance towards it, each with a white ball bearing a number in scarlet. The gentlemen advance from the opposite end of the room. The colours of the gentlemen are scarlet with a number in white. The balls appear to be served indiscriminately, and those who get corresponding numbers pair off as they are mated, walking down the side of the room. Then the net is cleared away and dancing begins with a minuet step.

The clubs will take it (ping-pong) up soon, and Mr Balfour will add it to the allurements of the reformed House. Already a ping-pong room is as recognised an accessory to the modern hotel as the dark-room for amateur photographers. A string of sandwichmen in Regent-street advertise the table tennis cake for ping-pong parties; special guards are sold to keep the ball from destruction by fire; strong men carry their racquets in bags, and tend them as warily as a gun or a wife. "It was always yet the trick of our English nation," says Falstaff, "if they have a good thing, to make it too common."

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Sunderland Daily Echo

24 February 1902

THE NEW TABLE TENNIS SET
WITH WIRE NET AND WOODEN RACQUETS.
Complete 7s 6d.
WILFRID COATES,
25, FAWCETT STREET,
SUNDERLAND.

Daily Express

26 February 1902

The Handbook to Ping-Pong
JUST OUT, entitled
Table-Tennis
And how to Play It.
With Rules and several Illustrations.
By **M. J. G. RITCHIE**,
of the All-England Table-Tennis Club,
AND
WALTER HARRISON,
of the Cavendish Table-Tennis Club.
Cloth, price 1s., or post free 1s. 2d.
Messrs. Pearson are the sole publishers
of this—the leading handbook of the game.
See that their name appears on the covers.
At all Booksellers and Railway Bookstalls,
or of **C. ARTHUR PARSON, LTD.**, Henrietta-
street, London, W.C.

Putney & Wandsworth News

28 February 1902

A report on the tournament at Battersea Town Hall (see 7th February advertisement) provided the following details. All arrangements were made by Messrs Ogden Smith, who also supplied “all requisites for playing”. There were over 350 entries, divided into 48 gents’ sections (each of 4), 19 ladies’ sections and 6 juveniles, with finals expected on the Friday evening (28th). A full list of prize-winners, and prizes (value in excess of £100), was published in the following week’s paper, but although the final rounds were played off on the Friday as expected, “owing to the numerous entries, it was not until the early hours of Saturday morning that the contests were actually finished”. Prizes were distributed “immediately after the close of the play.” [I should hope they were!]

Daily Express

1 March 1902

PING-PONG FOR SHOPPERS.

A ping-pong saloon is the latest form of drapery enterprise. In the basement of a fashionable West End establishment six ping-pong tables have been erected, and the room handsomely decorated.

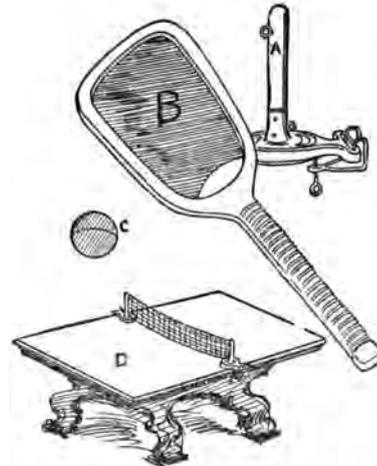
Patrons can engage tables by the hour at a charge of 1s. 6d., or 3d. a game, or 6d. a rubber of three games. Tables are being engaged days in advance, and the saloon is becoming quite a rendezvous for the smart set in Kensington.

The Bishop of Kensington has been a frequent visitor, and the bookings for March include the engagement of four tables for a party of thirty, “with tea.”

Houston Daily Post, Texas

2 March 1902

THE ALL ABSORBING FAD.



Ping pong is lawn tennis’ little brother, and is the latest little international baby that has found its way into the lap of society.

Daily Express

7 March 1902

Bishops and Sport.

The Bishop of Manchester, greatly daring, has spoken in disrespectful terms of that national institution — ping-pong.

Dr. Moorhouse, we must admit, shocks us most; chiefly because when he wanted to say “ping-pong” he had to pause and ask “What is the name of the wretched thing?” That would be intolerable, even from a judge on the Bench, notorious as judicial innocence has come to be.

But if the Lord Chief Justice, say, were to ask “What is ping-pong?” there would probably be a petition from both Houses praying his Majesty to remove him from the Bench. Even a bishop, surely, can only be let off with a warning.

It cannot be said that Dr. Moorhouse made much amends to ping-pong when he had been enlightened as to its name. He seemed to fear that the young women of the country would be deadened by devotion thereto to the “higher interests of humanity,” and that much ping-ponging might be a symbol of widespread “moral weakening.” It sounds ominous enough; but no doubt the Bishop did not mean to suggest to the girls’ friendly society which he was addressing that the table tennis racquet necessarily leads to racketsy conduct in general, or that a nation of ping-pongers is on the high road to becoming a nation of Goudies². It was simply his forcible way of pointing out that there is moderation in all things, and that, after all, life is not all ping-pong.

[See below, and TTC 79, page 15.]

Daily Express

10 March 1902

PING-PONG IN LIONS’ DEN.

Ping-pong is nothing if not cosmopolitan.

On Saturday night at the Brighton Hippodrome two local gentlemen named E. W. Barnett and H. W. Izod,

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

played a game for £50 a side in a cage in which there were eleven lions.

Mr. Barnett finally won the game, but it was noticed that the lions took but little interest in it. The balls used were subsequently distributed among the audience as mementoes of the evening.

Swindon Advertiser

12 March 1902

It has been said that a man who invents a new pastime deserves well of his country; but Dr. Moorhouse, Bishop of Manchester, greatly daring, has expressed a doubt whether the originator or inventor of ping-pong can be regarded as a benefactor. There are many others who share with him his scepticism in this matter, and the number will grow.

Manchester Courier

19 March 1902

We have received from Mr. A. J. Bryant, honorary secretary of the Table Tennis Association, a copy of the official handbook; ... We give herewith the introduction, which, by the way, is from the pen of Mr. Bryant, since it comprises quite a history of the game to date.

“On referring to the 1886 catalogue of at least one eminent firm of manufacturers of sports equipment, advertisements may be seen of materials for the game of ‘Table Tennis.’ For how long the game had been played before this can only be conjectured. ‘Table Tennis,’ however, did not seem for a time to commend itself to popular favour, although it lived among small parties of enthusiasts in different parts of the country. On the introduction of celluloid balls, first coloured, then white, and of parchment covered racquets, the game took a new lease of life.”

Deutsche Correspondent, Baltimore 20 March 1902



Swindon Advertiser

21 March 1902

‘Poole’s 20th Century Combination’ was advertising (for 12 nights and 5 matinees) a 3-hour programme, to be held at the Corn Exchange, featuring films and animated photos, plus live entertainment and orchestral incidental music. One of the films was “Poole’s newest comic film, PING-PONG. Roars of laughter.” A review described this film as “showing two working men indulging in the latest craze that of Ping Pong – and its results”.

Dundee Courier

26 March 1902

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION.—We have just received a copy of the official handbook of the Table Tennis Association, in

which the rules of that Association, laws of the game, regulations for tournaments, and club matches are to be found within the covers of a neat little book suitable for the pocket. A portion of the book is reserved for what are termed “knotty points,” and before a correct game can be played the players must be acquainted with at least a few of the most important of these. Several recommendations are also given, one of these being that players should not be attired in clothing of a light colour, while objection is also taken to light-coloured racquets. Apart from being a mere amusement, table tennis has now become a sport in which quickness of eye, correct judgment, prompt decision, and a fair amount of athletic skill are developed. The fact that the game has so rapidly come into public favour is ample indication that it has many excellent qualities, and without doubt, as in the case of lawn tennis, has “come to stay.” The book, which should be secured by all lovers of the game, is published at the nominal cost of threepence by Messrs Dalton & Chalkley, Limited, Luton, Leeds.

Leamington Daily Circular

26 March 1902



From an advertisement by Burgis & Colbourne, Ltd.

Manchester Courier

26 March 1902

TABLE TENNIS.

COMMENTS ON THE KNOCK-OUT AND AMERICAN SYSTEMS.

Owing to the short time the game has been in existence committees with no previous experience have much difficulty in making conditions for their tournaments, so we propose—as we are continually being asked for an opinion—to give a few “tips” which we have taken note of during our visits to many competitions. To begin at the beginning, there are two forms of tournament, the knock-out, when all the winners of round one go into the next round, and the American, when everybody plays everybody else, either in their own section or in the tournament. Now, if time is a consideration, the knock-out system is the better one, being the more quickly decided, but it has this disadvantage, namely that half the competitors have to retire after one game, which is objectionable, and certainly militates against getting a big entry. The only remedy we can suggest is that never less than a match, best out of three games, be played, which is a fair test, and ensures everyone getting at least one good game. We would, however, impose a time limit of twenty minutes or half an hour, according to the time at disposal—and strictly enforce it, the player having scored most points to win. You can, roughly speaking, allow three matches per table per hour, i.e., matches of best out of three games of 20 up. The above system works out very well, especially if care is taken to see that after the first round has been played the number of competitors left in be a multiple of eight, which is done in the usual manner of giving byes. The American system is a much more

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lengthy affair, the best example of which was Pilling and Briggs' tournament last month, at which in the sectional play on the Wednesday and Thursday evenings a total of about 190 games were played on four tables in nine hours, or 5½ games of 20 up per table per hour. These are figures which should be of some use to committees! In conclusion, we say that from our own experience the American system, if only in a modified form, is the more popular among players, but it is not the truer test and gives much more trouble to the management, and for a large tournament, with only one or two days' play, we suggest, adopt the knock-out plan and, if possible, have every competitor notified of the time at which he has to play.
..... YE ALLWOODE BATTE.

Pall Mall Gazette

26 March 1902

PING-PONG BALLS.

EIGHT MILLIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE.

With the rise of ping-pong in public estimation there has grown up almost a new industry—the manufacture of the little xylonite balls. By a system which has been kept a profound secret, it is possible to make these balls absolutely round, but in America, where the game has assumed the proportions of a national pastime, the process has remained undiscovered. The consequence is that an export trade of very large dimensions has sprung up between ourselves and America—a trade which at present defies the efforts of the producers to keep pace with it. At the present not a single ping-pong ball is kept in stock at the factory, the daily output of about 300 gross being sent off immediately. Just over eight million balls have been turned out in London since ping-pong started. The weekly output is valued at just over £1,000.

Brighton Gazette

27 March 1902

PING-PONG NOTES.

By "CELLULOID."

There can be no doubt now that ping-pong has come to stay. It has been established on the Atlantic liners, and millionaires who make systematic journeys across the herring-pond beguile the tedious days with table tennis. No less authority than the "Daily Telegraph" stated the other day that a match for 500 dollars was played by two well-known gentlemen on the Cunard liner Campagna, and that ping-pong tables and apparatus will be introduced on the company's other boats. Now although ping-pong may suffer by comparison with other pastimes, there can be no doubt that it is better than nothing, offers a pleasant change from "bridge," and is a welcome alternative to the very amateurish concerts which are arranged with the mistaken idea of relieving the tedium of a seven days' sea voyage. Up to the present cards, concerts—and perhaps an incipient flirtation—have been the only divertissements of those who "do business in great waters"; but ping-pong will change the old order of things. Table tennis tournaments will effectually dissipate the monotony of the longest voyages; and the gentleman who is popularly supposed to find work for idle hands will experience an unparalleled slackness in his steamboat business.

Swindon Advertiser

28 March 1902

PING-PONG.

To an inquiring individual in search of "some instruction as to scoring in ping-pong," the following has been formulated by a competent authority:—

1. Knocking the ball through the window counts three.
2. Breaking the plate-glass mirror counts two.
3. Striking next player with racket takes eight off your score.
4. Lodging ball in ear of fussy old gentleman who is looking on counts six all round.
5. Hitting self under chin with handle of racket entitles you to another shot.
6. Knocking ball into opponent's eye is game.

The Daily Graphic

5 April 1902

"PING PONG" AND PAUPERISM

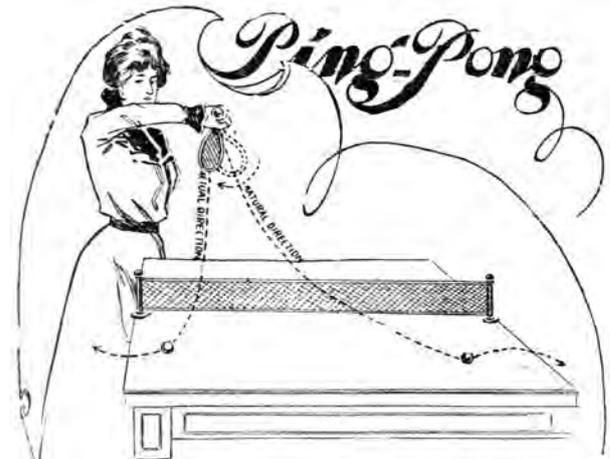
UNAFFECTED BY THE "PING PONG" CRAZE

Since the days of Oliver Twist our workhouses have been improved beyond recognition. Hearing that the Camberwell Workhouse had been presented with several sets of the very newest parlour game, a representative of the DAILY GRAPHIC called on the Master to find out if there were any likelihood of the Ping Pong championship being carried off by one of his protégés.

But it transpired that the inmates were in general too old and infirm: Though on their own showing that they cannot play "Ping Pong," they still can and do play draughts and dominoes.

St Paul Globe, Minnesota

6 April 1902



... "Ping pong," that fascinating parlor game that has recently come over the seas to us from aristocratic London. ... The craze has but just struck the West, although in New York, and, in fact, in all of the Eastern cities, it is raging almost as wildly as it does in England.

Ping pong is simply modified tennis played upon a table in the house instead of a court in the open air and is, in fact, table tennis. ... It makes no difference in the game whether it is played with or without a cloth upon the table. Without a cloth the balls will, of course, bounce higher.

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Wood County Reporter, Wisconsin 10 April 1902

New York Sun

25 April 1902



AS TO PING PONG.

We play ping pong.
The ball flies hither and yon across the table but no faster than the repartee.
"It is like golf," declares one.
"How is that?" asks his viz-a-viz, landing the ball in his eye.
"Golf requires the 'igh-ball but ping pong"—
Here they all laughed for the end of his remark was obvious. It was on the ball, indeed.

St Paul Globe, Minnesota 25 April 1902

SOCIETY'S POPULAR AMUSEMENT.



Eastern Daily Press (Norwich) 1 May 1902

Pen Doz. PEARSON'S CUTLERY. Post Free
6d. PING-PONG 6d.
Post Free. on Pen Doz.
TABLE TENNIS BALLS.
Best English Halex Make.
PEARSON & SONS
Bedford St. (facing L.O.C.), Ludlow St., Norwich.

Evening Star, Ipswich 5 May 1902

South Shields School Board objects strongly to its teachers playing ping-pong during school play-time.

PING PONG
The entire line made under the English patent and copyright, the only genuine Ping Pong made in this country. Prices: 1.25, 1.50, 2.50, 2.75, 3.50, 4.50, 5.50, 7.50 & 8.00. Ping Pong Tables, 10.75.
SPORTING GOODS.
Ingersoll
FOUR STORES:
67 Cortlandt, and 1197
111 Nassau, Bedford Ave.,
25 W. 42d St., N. Y. Brooklyn.

The San Francisco Call 9 May 1902

PING-PONG PARTIES FORM LATE SOCIAL DIVERSION

Pleasant Evenings Spent at Miniature Tennis



Carmelita White – Society Debutante who entertained friends at Ping-Pong Party. Miss White was charming in a gown of yellow crepe de chine, with pearl ornaments.

The Lincoln Courier, Nebraska 10 May 1902

Ping-Pong...
or Table Tennis
THE LATEST PARLOR GAME
Sets 50c, \$1.10, \$2.25, \$3.00, \$3.75 and \$4.50
THE LINCOLN BOOK STORE, 1126 O STREET.

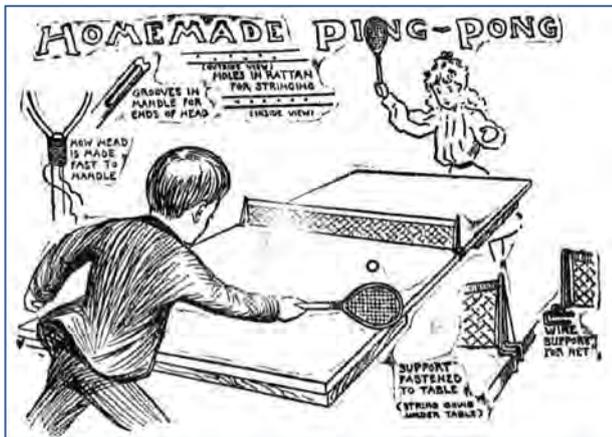
Suburban Citizen, Washington 10 May 1902

Making a Ping-Pong
Set at Home.

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Of all the indoor games that the writer has tried ... none has proved such jolly good fun as table tennis, or as the English call it, "ping-pong." ... When it comes to a very cheap set you can probably make at home just as good an outfit and maybe better.

With detailed instructions the writer described the making of a "string racket" (his preferred form) from rattan frames, wooden handle and banjo string (thoroughly soaked and strung whilst wet, but not too tightly). Heavy telegraph wire was suggested for the net supports, and "a gauze or netting of some kind bound at the top with an inch or two of white tape" for the net. The table "should be simply a smooth or flat surface about five by ten feet, or, say, four by eight feet". A brief description of the rules and scoring ("as in tennis") was then given.



"The tennis experts and all-round athletes have devised a new sort of racket that makes of this parlor game a rather strenuous and exciting affair." Brief instructions were provided for making such a "wooden paddle", covering "on one side or both—according to how you play" ... "with emery cloth or paper glued on carefully".

"As to balls, the best are those made of celluloid, which can be bought at any sporting or toy store for a few cents apiece.

This ping-pong is really a great game and the writer thinks it has come to stay.—Detroit Free Press."

The Butte Inter Mountain, US 16 May 1902



PERILS OF PING-PONG.

Selby Times

Friday 23 May 1902

A Ping Pong tournament was commenced in the Public Rooms on Wednesday afternoon and closed last night, on behalf of the Selby District Nurse's Fund. [Among the 25 gentlemen entering the event was a Mr W D Foster, who proposed a vote of thanks to the organiser, Mrs Walker. He was a cousin of David Foster, of early Patent fame.]

St Paul Globe, Minnesota

23 May 1902

AMERICA GOING PING PONG MAD.

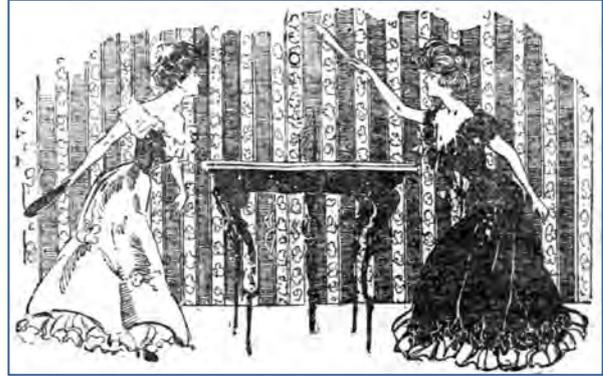


Table tennis, as it was first called when introduced in England, ping pong, as it is now named, has become epidemic throughout the country. Old and young alike seem to yield to its mysterious fascinations and scramble together about the floors in search of missing balls. The sales of ping pong outfits have already reached fabulous dimensions and are daily increasing.

Evening Star, Ipswich

24 May 1902

The Chinese Minister to Washington, Wu Ting Fang, acknowledged that he didn't like playing ping-pong as it made him "tired without giving any exercise". But he declared "that ping-pong is but a development of a game which was invented by a Chinese priest thousands of years before the Christian era. It was not so strenuous as tennis, but it is more athletic than ping-pong".

Minneapolis Journal

24 May 1902



HE BUMPED HIS NOSE AND IT BLED DRETFUL.

In the accompanying story, he bumped his nose "one time when he ducked under the table for the ball"; just another (more informally dressed) victim of the perils of the game!

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Albuquerque Daily Citizen, US **13 June 1902**

Ping-pong shirt waists are very smart and new. They are made principally of pique and duck. On the left sleeve near the shoulder ping-pong racquets are worked with washable silk in blue or red or brown, as desired and the belt shows a border of the little designs over the entire surface.

Hats come to match these waists and these are of the regulation sailor shape, but developed in Panama straw finished with a band of white taffeta. Instead of having a bow at the left side as customarily, the band extends into streamers at the back which reach to the waist, the end being embroidered with ping-pong racquets.

St Paul Globe, Minnesota **27 July 1902**

A NOVEL PINGPONG PARTY FOR THE PORCH



PINGPONG TABLES IN THE PORCH.

This is a story of Mrs Littleton De Blank, a woman of limited income with six "unbeauteous" spinster daughters (who "played golf badly") and her novel idea for attracting suitors. She "decided to turn the southwestern end of [the] veranda into a pingpong parlor. ... A cork carpet was neatly tacked over the polished floor. Behind the wire netting bamboo shades were hung. These would keep out the sunlight and insure privacy. Three new pingpong tables were neatly folded in one corner. The veranda was hung with Japanese lanterns and pennants, on which the skillful fingers of the artistic [daughter] had applied white rackets, each one with a ball rampant. Easy chairs and settees were ranged along the wall for the accommodation of the lookers on."



THE REFRESHMENT CORNER.

"On a table just inside the hall door a bowl of cool lemonade was located. Souvenirs were provided for each guest. These consisted of pingpong boxes filled with candy. The refreshments were served in the dining room, and the menu" included "Pingpong Ices. Pingpong Cake."

The Lincoln Courier, Nebraska **2 August 1902**

The Ping Pong Girl (Philadelphia Times.)

The ping pong craze promises to out-rival the golf fad of previous seasons in the multitude of things brought out in the shops which owe their existence to the fashionable game imported from London.

Ping pong shirtwaist-sets in silver consist of a brooch formed of two bats crossed inside of a horseshoe, and three pins for the front of the waist made of two bats crossed.

Ping pong stick-pins have a single bat mounted on the end of the pin. The end of a ping pong hat pin is ornamented with two bats crossed.

There were also descriptions of a pingpong cravat, stock, belt, shirtwaist and suits ("don't say "polka dot," say "ping pong dot").

The ping pong craze has even invaded the furniture departments. There are ping pong tables that can be converted into dining or library tables at a moment's notice; folding tables are of hardwood for ping pong, ... and there are painted and scored tops to place over any ordinary table made of compo board, and ping pong table covers of green oilcloth, scored.

For ping pong parties and luncheons are special table decorations ... which range from bon bon receptacles in the form of a bat to a tiny box for sweets, the cover of which when lifted forms a table. ... Then there is a pong pong thirst which goes with the game, and a new punch called ping pong has sprung into popularity.

NOTES

1. Company No. 72625, registered on 24 January 1902 by manager and secretary John Robinson (Caterer) of 609 Fulham Road (later of 10 Hartland Road, N Kilburn), London, and dissolved on 29 May 1906. The company's objects were many and varied, but included "proprietors of ping-pong and table tennis rooms", and "to establish and provide conveniences and attractions of all kinds for customers and others." [Another Limited Company registered at that time was The Ping Pong Social Club Limited, 71 Park Street, Gloucester Gate, London, Managing Director George Emmett (No. 73240 on 27 March 1902, dissolved by 1916).]
2. Probably a reference to Thomas Goudie, Liverpool bank worker turned fraudster.

The next part in the series will take us to the end of 1902, featuring a series of articles by M J G Ritchie. Whilst this was initially intended to be the end of the series, there will now be a couple more extra parts to take us from the end of the 'craze' to the 'revival' of the 1920s.

New Discoveries - Old Treasures

by Hans-Peter Trautmann (GER)

I have been fortunate to know our friend and master collector Hans-Peter Trautmann for nearly 40 years. He has proved to be very resourceful in his search for fine quality and important Table Tennis treasures. Peter is also a researcher par excellence. He kindly shares with our readers some discoveries.



Peter describes this gem:

This is a postcard from the 1st World Championships, dated 14 December 1926, written by the Czechoslovakian player Anton Malecek to his father in Prague.

Six years later, in Prague, Malecek was a member of the host team that captured the Swaythling Cup.

Translation of the text in the postcard:

“Dear parents, The tournament has ended and we have taken 6th place.

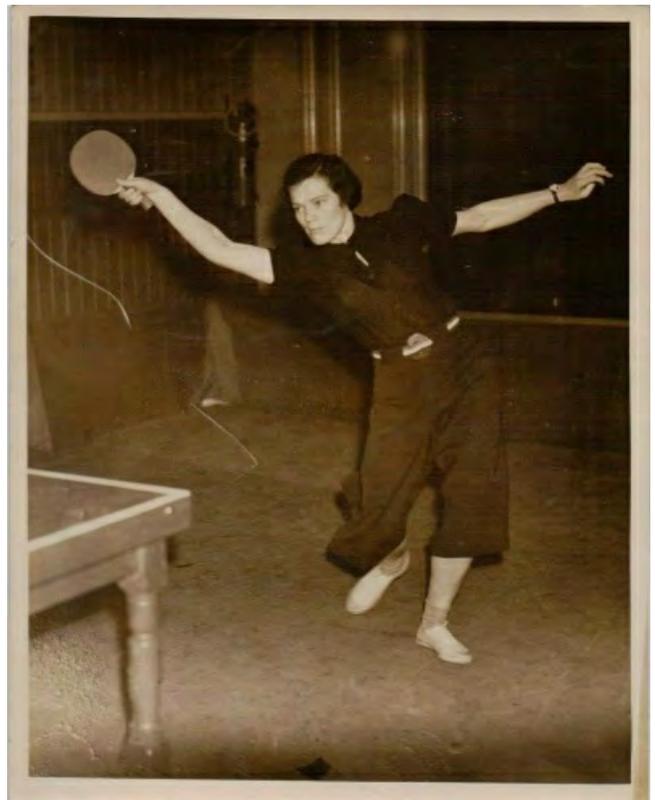
I beat Bela von Kehrling 21-18, 21-16 in an excellent game. I have also beaten all three Germans. I played against Flussmann (Austria), the winner over Hungary, and lost a tight match 17-21, 21-18, 19-21. I was eliminated in the singles by the Indian Peermahomed. London annoyed me—it is no fun anymore. We are driving to Berlin on Tuesday. We will arrive in Prague on Sunday. Greetings for now. A. Malecek.”



According to the explanation of the text, it is the personnel director who is bidding for a position. The person whose name is Nakano leaves the Ministry of Sports, and the following is the year of the Japanese; the Showa 16 is January 19, 1942. The photo was made from T. Saji in Tientsin/China (see print down on the left side) Nakano Personnel Director Farewell Memorial Movement Department ----- January 19, Showa 16 1942.1.19 On Japanese maps of that era, a swastika is used to mark the location of a Buddhist temple.



Press photo of Dora Beregi during the 1939 English Open



Press photo of Vera Votrubcova during the 1939 English Open.

Philatelic Update



Private stamp and postcard in honor of the 20th year of French TT collectors. Bravo!



Hong Kong stamp for the 2020 Olympics



North Korea 1971, stamp not officially issued. The text is: 'Asia-Africa Friendly Invitation TT Game'



Chinese postmark for the 7th Military Games, Wuhan 18-27.10.2019



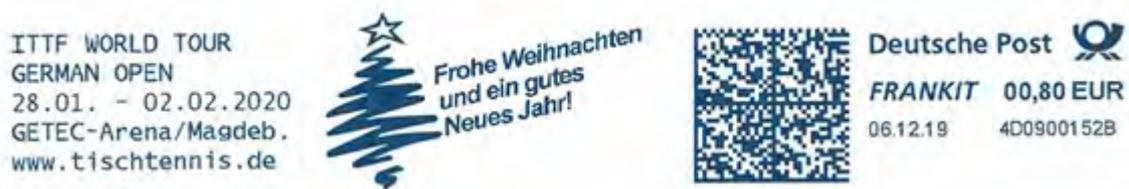
Postmark, Changshu, Jianshu Province, 11.26. 2019 for sports stamps exhibition in 5 cities.



Belarus 8 December 2016, 70 years of UNICEF. Previously unpublished in the Journal, found by Hans-Peter Trautmann



Japan personalized stamp for Tokyo 2020



Blue meter for the World Tour German Open, 28.01-02.02.2020 in Magdeburg, with Christmas tree and greetings



Blue meter for the 2020 German Open, Magdeburg, without Christmas tree and greetings



Blue meter for the 2020 German Open in Magdeburg, used by Tischtennis Marketing GmbH (TMG) in Karben, Germany-

Table Tennis Stamps varieties and specials.

From HansPeter Trautmann, Germany

Part 2 (For part 1 see the Table Tennis Collector No. 80, October 2016)

1.) World Table Tennis Championships:



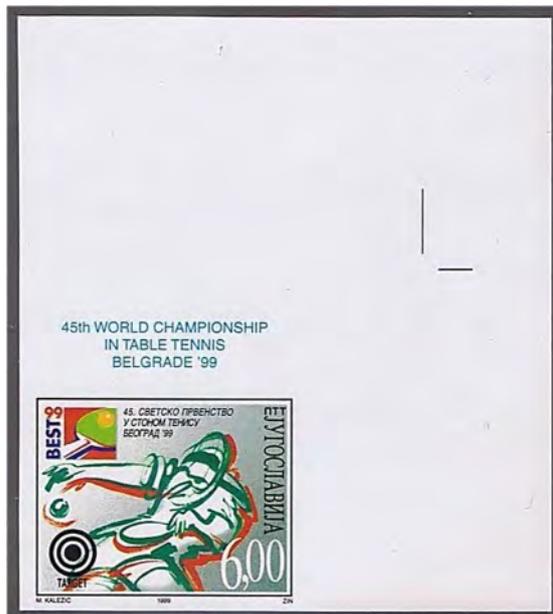
Country: Japan
Occasion: World Table Tennis Championships Tokyo / Japan 1956.
Date: 1956, April 2
Special: The print is shift to the right side.



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 side of the table.

Normal stamp

Special stamp



Country: Yugoslavia
Occasion: World Table Tennis Championships 1999 in Belgrade.
Date: 1999, April 9
Special: Imperforated proofs.

The Championships were originally scheduled from April 26 to May 9 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia but were postponed after the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia during the Kosovo War in March 1999. Individual events were relocated to Eindhoven/Netherland 1999 and team competitions were moved to Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia in 2000.



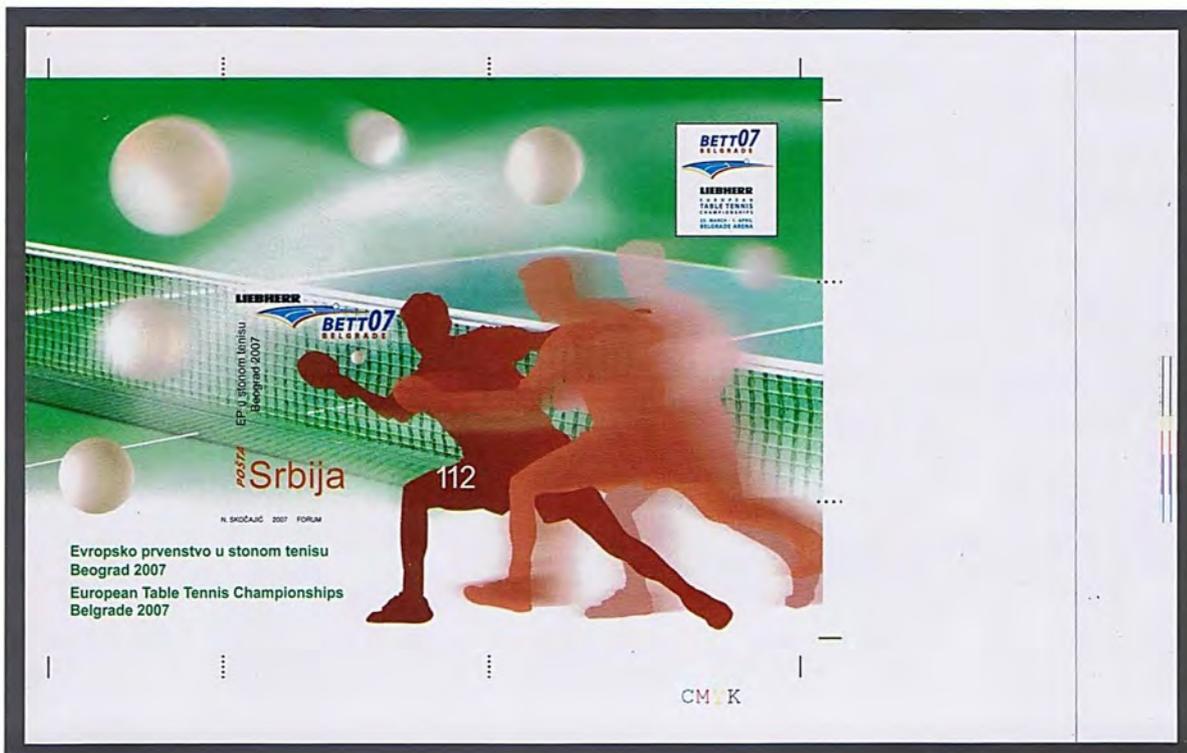
Country: Republic Srpska
Occasion: World Table Tennis Championships 1999 in Belgrade.
Date: 1999, April 19
Special: Imperforated proofs.



2.) European Table Tennis Championships:



Country: Serbia
Occasion: European Table Tennis Championships 2007 in Belgrade.
Date: 2007, March 23
Special: Imperforated proof of the stamp.



Country: Serbia
Occasion: European Table Tennis Championships 2007 in Belgrade.
Date: 2007, March 23
Special: Imperforated proof of the sheet.

3.) Olympic Games:



Country: Yugoslavia
 Occasion: Olympic Games 1988 in Seoul, South Korea.
 Date: 1988, December 31
 Special: Imperforated stamps with and without background color. Only four of each sheet exists.

4.) Other varieties and specials from table tennis stamps



Country: Serbia and Montenegro
 Occasion: 50 years table tennis federation Montenegro.
 Date: 2005, February 28
 Special: Imperforated proof.

Auction Action



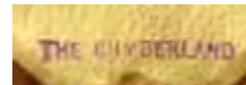
Hallmarked Sterling silver medal, 1st prize PING-PONG, 1902



J.W. Spear set, sold in a German auction for only £20



Whiff-Waff vellum drum rackets. 'The Cumberland' model. More often seen are the paint brush style Whiff-Waff rackets. This pair was part of a set that sold for £22 in an English auction, ¼ of the estimate



Louis Wain's booklet 'Ping Pong as Seen by Louis Wain. £150



Cavendish set, pair of wood bats with cork handles, familiar heavy tennis style netposts. Sold in an English auction for £12, half of estimate.



Rare Galyon postcard, Ping Pong party invitation, from a set of 12, the earliest known postcards relating to the new game, c.1901 Sold for 40Euros on delcampe.net



Slazenger Buckingham set with leather trimmed hardbats & 12 balls. Sold for a bargain £5



Slazenger Demon bat. Slazenger also used this name for tennis rackets, sometimes with image of a bat with spread wings



Slazenger 'Challenge' bat with unusual short tapered handle, cloth covered. £25



Seldom seen complete box of 12 Szabados balls,. 51 Euros. Miklos was 1931 World Singles Champion. Note the spelling of the name on the ball - the 'z' is missing!



An ordinary looking lot of table tennis hardbats that sold for £18, but on closer examination there appear to be several Barna bats and a scarce Richard Bergmann bat !



1938 US Championship Women's Singles winner's trophy. \$99.
Won by Emily Fuller, who also won in 1939. Sad to see little interest,
with only 1 bid.



Wrought iron 'port-revue', or magazine holder, with 2 rackets and 2 balls in stylish design. Quite an unusual piece, found in France. 80 Euros after expensive post.



Poster Grace Line Cruises c.1940s 41.5"x28"
Auction estimate \$400-600 Minimum bid \$200



French poster, c.1950, auction estimate £105-210 Min bid £70. Size 59x40cm. Careful - reproductions have the name 'PING PONG' in the upper right.



Pair of Jaques Haydon bats. £10



Butterfly
Jonyer S
Sold for
\$217.50



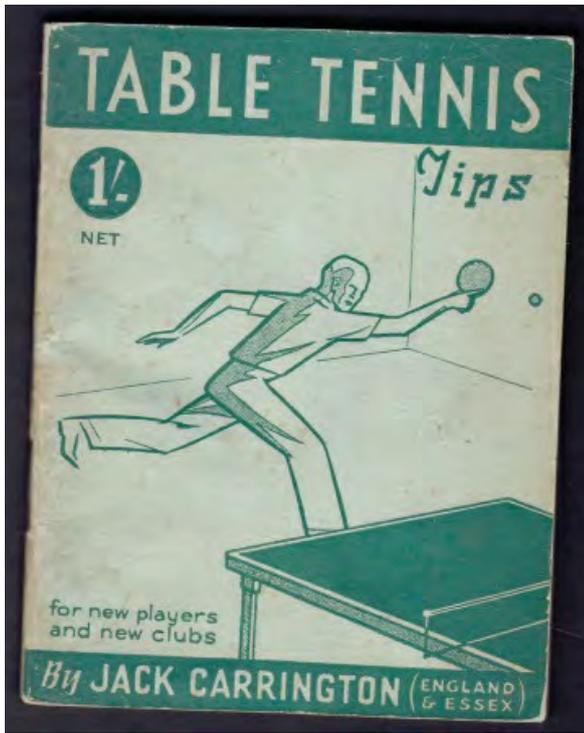
Stiga Garrett Nash 1500 SEK



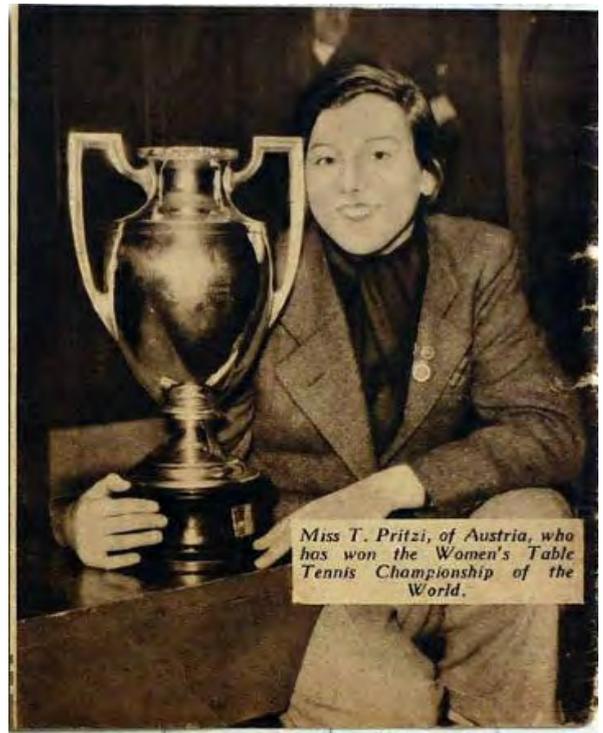
Stiga Berczik sold for \$62
after 51 bids!



Stigma Tage Flisberg \$38.50.
Another example sold for \$179



1946 edition, £8.50



Trude Pritzi, who won the 1937 World Singles title

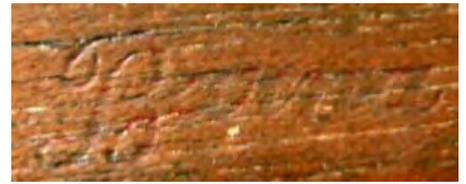


Dunlop 'Club-Reverse' with nailed grip. Sold for £40. An early 60s sandwich racket? Looks cheap compared to a Barna bat from the same era. A boxed set with 2 of these also sold for £40.



Two later examples of the Club-Reverse
Above: no sale at £14.50. Below: £10





Barna with classic brown rubber, imprint rubbed, Dunlop teardrop logo on other side. Nice bat for £20.



Well-preserved example of a Dunlop Barna bat with red teardrop logo



Nice example of a Dunlop Sandwich bat, c. 1960s £34

Pair of Dunlop Barna Original bats with classic rubber £32 Fine condition





Postally sent card from the 1961 World Championships, Peking. Sold on ebay for a strong 251 Euros. The Postcard was send to Georg Apfelbeck (* 3.06.1914; † 21.12.1982), member of the DTTB board.

Autographs::

1. Carl Adloff (* 15.03.1896; † January 1981), President of the DTTB from 1958-1961
2. Karl Morhard, member of the DTTB board
3. Rosemarie Gomolla (* 25.04.1940; † 21.02.1998), national table tennis player
4. Dr. Dieter Mauritz (* 21.11.1918; † 3.04.1988), President of the DTTB from 1965-1981
5. unknown
German national table tennis players:
6. Konrad (Conny) Freundorfer (* 9.11.1936; † 7.05.1988),
7. Inge Müser (* 9.06.1940),
8. Ernst Gomolla (* 7.04.1935),
9. Jupp Schlaf (* 23.11.1919; † 26.02.1989), general secretary of the DTTB, 1949-1981
10. Martin Ness (* 18.02.1942; † 12.10.1987),
11. Jutta Kruse (* 27.03.1940),
12. Wolfgang Prandke (* 16.03.1943; † 29.09.2013).

With thanks to Hans-Peter Trautmann



Butterfly Surbek European Champion bat sold for USD \$37



One of a set of advertising fans from 1904, sold for \$95. Where the handle attaches to the fan the text recommends cork balls !



'Royal Ping Pong' by David Shar1r, 65x50cm litho \$600 to \$900 estimate, with \$500 minimum bid



Set of badges from the 1981 World Championships in Novi Sad. The attachments include (L-R): Guest, Technical Leader, Press, Television, Judge, Player, Service, Commission. On ebay for \$450



Sanwei Pistol Grip \$27



An earlier model of the Sanwei pistol grip

Collector Directory

Günther Angenendt

Langacker 10a 44869 Bochum, Germany
+49-2327-77117 ttanpp@gmx.de
Pre-war World Ch programs; all TT items
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

416 Charles Ct. Cary NC. 27511
babuinm@campbell.edu
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

10 Rue des Chevreuilles F-45130 Saint-Ay
02.38.88.82.11 Fax: 02.38.45.94.29
F.chantriaux@wanadoo.fr Stamps, cancels,
Postcards, posters, old papers on TT

Colin Clemett colin.clemett.@Gmail.com

2 Watermill Court, 10 Springwell, Havant
PO9 1ED UK Historical documents

Fabio Colombo Italy drfabioc@gmail.com

www.colombofabio.com
Table Tennis books, World Rankings. Author
Seeking STIGA Stipancic rackets

Ron Crayden (ENG) in Memoriam**Andre Demeure (BEL)** in Memoriam

Jean Devys Residence La petite vigne,
20 rue Edgar Quinet, A16 F-59100 Roubaix
France 33.320828444 Fax: 33.320650849 TT
philately, cycling jean.devys@orange.fr

Axel Dickhaus Germany

Atzienbacherf Str. 88 D-51381 Leverkusen
+49 (0)2171 32108 Fax: 49 (0)2171.731478
axel.dickhaus@freenet.de TT balls, phone cards

Alan Duke alan-duke2@talktalk.net

2 Shapwick Close, Swindon WILTS. England
SN3 3RQ UK +44 (0) 1793 531234
History, music & photo record of TT items

Sergio Durazzano durazzano@aruba.it

Via Girardini 8, 33100 Udine, Italy
0432.21105 Stamps & historical books

Winfried Engelbrecht Germany

Virgiliustr.21 D-45131 Essen 49.201.78.6795
winfried.engelbrecht@imail.de Philately:
Stamps, FDCs, Sheets, Postmarks, books,
phonecards, tickets, stickers, W.C. Programs

Romualdas Franckaitis Lithuania

Rfranckaitis@gmail.com

Gao Yi-bin 15365036631@163.com

No.9 Xin Wen Road 21-905 Phoenix Tree Garden
Jiangning, Nanjing, Jiansu P.R.China 211100
+8625 5212 3334 TT stamps, FDC, postcards
phonecards, coins, medals, pins, cancels

Roman Gelman rgpinman@aol.com

24 Taverngreen Court, Baltimore, MD. USA
21209 410 602 0267 Pins,,badges,medals

David Good dgood42@yahoo.com

710 N.Waverly, Dearborn, MI 48128 USA
+1 313 278 5271 c.1900 sets, equipment,
ephemera, memorabilia

Scott Gordon USA sgordon@hardbat.com

5340 Shelato Way, Carmichael, CA 95608
+1 916 978 0117 www.hardbat.com films
Historic films,classic era hardbats, old books

Gordon Gotal mim-borovo@zg.htnet.hr

Meduliceva 23 Zagreb 10000 Croatia
+3851 4848 687 Exch: TT pins, medals, post-
cards Acquire: WC & EC official badges
(Guest, organizer, player, press, etc)

Steve Grant Florida USA author

Nyman455@yahoo.com
Ping Pong Diplomacy, Early 1900s TT

Esko Heikkinen esko.heikkinen@sptl.fi

Vainamoisenkatu 9 B 17 Helsinki 00100
Finland +358 50 62532 TT history, Stiga bats

Gerald Gurney +44.1206.230330

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Rex Haggett rex.haggett@ntworld.com

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Warwickshire, CV37 9PJ England
+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

Barry Hayward UK

19 Little Hardwick Road, Streetly
West Midlands WS9 OSD
sunbar102@gmail.com
Website: www.tabletennislibrary.co.uk

Chuck Hoey Honorary Curator, ITTF Museum

museum@ittf.com
Art bats, unusual bats, historic photos,
Important medals, museum quality items

Martin Holland mjh44now@yahoo.co.uk

44 Victoria Road, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria
England BA14 5JU TT postcards & trade cards

Rolf Jaeger USA In Memoriam**Dean Johnson** USA

3404 Holly Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23451
(757) 478 3605 djab2b@aol.com

Jean-Francois Kahn France

49 rue Leonardo da Vinci, 77330 Ozoir la
Ferriere jfkhan70@gmail.com
+33 1 40779762 TT philately: imperf stamps,
sheets, color proofs, minister/artist sheets,
errors, postmarks, meters, FDCs, specimens

Christian Klaus Möllersdorf, Austria

christianklaus59@gmail.com
TT stamps, cancels, postcards, autograph
cards, FDCs, historic photos, magazines,
Newspapers, score-lists, books, posters ...

Jan Kleeven sjangkleeven@planet.nl

Margrietstraat 63 6373 NN Landgraaf
Netherlands Pins, flags, pennants, stamps,
Phonecards, stickers

Matti Kolppanen Finland

Kollekannaksent 12E, FI-02720 Espoo
matti.kolppanen@kolumbus.fi
TT history, TT postcards

Randy Koo Netherlands

Torenwacht 37, 2353 DB Leiderdorp
+31 071 5417413 randykoo@gmail.com
Stamps mint, postmarks, red meters, FDC

Hans Kreischer +34965698195

Avenue les Comargues 21, Busot-Allicante
03111 Spain hanskreischer@hotmail.com

Kevin Lau USA kevintennis@yahoo.com

Philatelic, pins, coins, memorabilia, souvenir
& decorative items

Caron Leff Ft. Myers, FL USA

csleff@aol.com Table Tennis pins

Collector Directory

Bruno Lancon France
Barna rackets

Francis Leibenguth France +33951966614
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>

Jorgen Lindh joli@mbox303.swipnet.se
Egnahemsgatan 13D S-43242 Varberg
SWEDEN

Steve Luck, 12 Liskey Hill, Perranporth,
Cornwall TR6 0ET Phone: 07860 446209
steve@stevlucktennis.com racket sports,
rowing, billiards, croquet, archery ...

Fabio Marcotulli Venezuela
lailagalvez@yahoo.com
Barna rackets, TT items from all eras

Hubert Menand
hubert.menand@laposte.net
President, AFCTT (French TT Collectors)

Eldon Mohler eam2@ix.netcom.com
1820 E.Warm springs Rd.
Suite 112 Las Vegas. NV 89119 USA
Fax: +1-702-453-8472

Erik Kenneth Muhr England UK
2 Highgate Hill, Hawkhurst KENT TN18 4LB
01580 752676 History of Table Tennis
ken.muhr@btinternet.com

Rudolf Mueller Germany
Bahnhofstr. 58 D-57250 Netphen 02738-
1461 Stamps, cancels, letter, error, red
meters r-mueller-netphen@t-online.de

Jan Nusteley Netherlands
Weserstraat 21, 9406 VP Assen 0592-
356050 e-mail: nley@hotmai.com
Stamps, mint perforated FDCs red meters,
cancels WC, EC, EC-Youth, Top-12

Robert Op de Beek In Memoriam

Florian Pagel Germany flo.p@gmx.net
Older Banda, Stiga, Joola, Butterfly, Imperial

Park Jeong Kye fifaball@hanmail.net
PO Box 555 Busan 48931 KOREA South
Postmarks, stamps, postcards

Gregory Pinkhusovich
Apt.10, h.2 Sheshet Ha-Yamim Str
Ariel 40700 ISRAEL +972-54-3394739
gpinkhusovich@gmail.com
TTPins, badges, medals, coins

Laszlo Polgar Hungary
klpolgar@hotmail.com
Early World Ch items, Barna, Bergmann,
Bellak, Szabados, Anna Sipos, Rozeanu, Ehrlich
and Dolinar. Table Tennis plus chess.

Alberto Prieto USA
alberto@valortabletennis.com

Robin Radford rjradford@xtra.co.nz
7A Beauchamp St TAWA, Wellington,
5028 NZ Phone: +64 04 232 5672
TT cartoons, comic strips, clip art

Jose Ransome
"Conifers" Church Lane ORMESBY
Middleborough TS7 9AU ENGLAND
01642 322223 ajransome@aol.com

Geoff Reed In Memoriam

Helmut Reinhardt
Friedrich-Voss-Platz 19,
D-24768 Rendsburg, GERMANY
H.Reinhardt-Stral@kabelmail.de

Ortwin Schiessl Austria
Lascygasse 14-16, A-1170 WIEN
ortwin.schiessl@aon.at table tennis
philately: Stamps, sheets, FDC, postmarks

Lutz Schoenfeld Germany
selling Table Tennis items on ebay: pongiste
e-mail: rulusch@t-online.de

Luigi Simeoni In Memoriam

Harry Sintemaartensdijk Netherlands
Julianastraat 8, 2651 DP Berkel en Rodenrijs
0031 105114621 harry.smd@kpnmail.nl
Tischtennis Aufklebers/stickers

Tang Gan Xian P.R.China
tangganxian@126.com
Qin Hu 4-35-104, ChangShu 215500
+86-512-52722359 TT stamps, FDC, pins
postmarks, postcards, phonecards, tickets,

Marc Templereau France afctt@free.fr
16 Hameau des cerisiers 38150 Roussillon
Secretary, AFCTT (French TT Collectors
Assoc) <https://afctt.wordpress.com>
Collections : stamps, FDC, players postcards,
autographs, programs

Michael Thomson
1 Kinnoull Terrace, PERTH
PH2 7DJ SCOTLAND UK 01738 622052
thomsonfamily@blueyonder.co.uk
Jaques and history of Table Tennis

Solazzi Tonino solton66@virgilio.it
Via Millefonti 6 / 5 10126 Torino, Italy
0039 3668744426 Table Tennis pins
www.tabletennispins.weebly.com

Hans-Peter Trautmann Germany
Siegfriedstr. 17 64385 Reichelsheim
hpt@hptrautmann.de
Stamps mint, perf + imperf, sheets, color
proofs, minister/artist sheets, postmarks,
errors, red/blue meters

Graham Trimming 44(0)1628 529609
Rosemount Juniper Lane
Wooburn Green, Bucks HP10 0DE England
graham.trimming@virgin.net pre-1939 TT
items, esp c.1900s. Acquire: Gossima 1891;
early unusual items; early World Ch items.

Damir Uzorinac Croatia
Prilaz Gjure Dezelica 20 10000 Zagreb
Damir.Uzorinac@pliva.hr 38598474982
Books, pins, stamps, cancellations

Russ Walker e-mail = ?
4316 Irving Ave N, MPLS MN 55412 USA
+1-612-522-7905
Early 1900s equipment & boxed sets

Diane & Harvey Webb England
Dianek1414@hotmail.co.uk
+44 (0)1424 216342
English related photographs, programmes,
books, post cards. General - pin badges

Yao Zhenxu
Room 401 Unit 1 Building 2
No. 4 Dongsikuaiyu South Street
Chongwen District, Beijing 100061, China
+86-13911990508 ctayao@china.com
TT stamps, FDC, postcards, coins, pins,
phonecards, postal material, tickets etc

Jos Zinkstok Netherlands
Neckarstraat 8 NL9406 VN ASSEN
+31 592 350486 Fax: 0031 592 355861
j.zinkstok@poveia.nl www.poveia.nl
TT cancellations, stamps, vignettes, on real
used, letters/covers/cards, FDC

Anton Zwiebel In Memoriam

**Please update your e-mail address if
changed**



Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

The 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo are fast approaching, (July) and the products related to Table Tennis are already appearing for sale. Two official pictogram pins are offered from Japan, plus a mascot pin. Many national associations & media will be producing pins/badges for their teams. Be careful, as early pricing tends to be quite high.



NBC TV pin, cherry blossoms & fan



Mascot pin



Team GB 50p coin with TT bat and other sport symbols



Japanese 1000 Yen coin