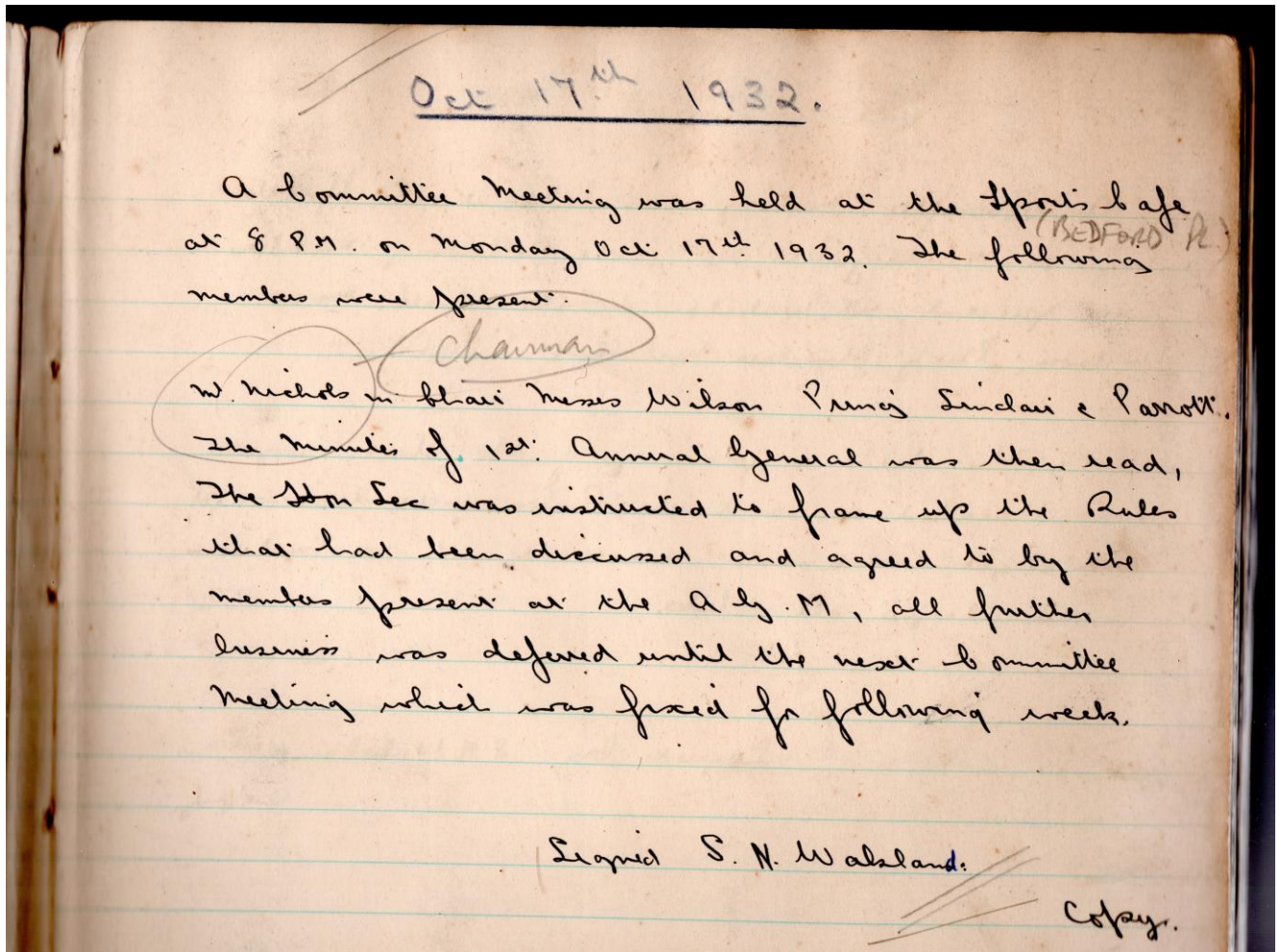


Southampton Table Tennis Association – The Early Years



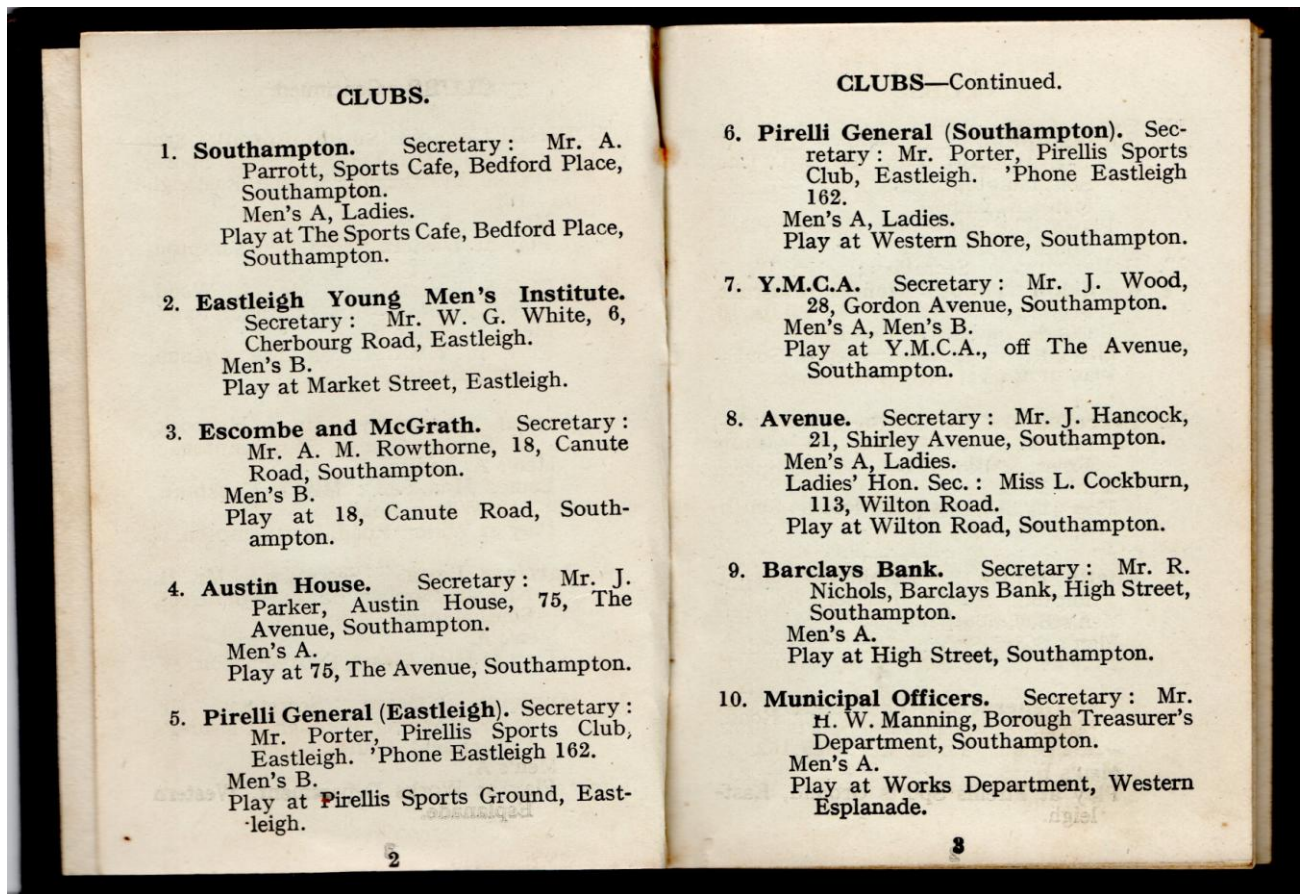
Southampton Table Tennis Association was formed at a meeting at Austin House on 17th October **1932**. The first committee meeting was held in the Sports Cafe in Bedford Place three days later, see the first entry in the minute book above. It was attended by the Chairman Mr S N Wakeland, Treasurer Mr W E Pring, Hon Secretary Mr A Parrot and Messrs Lambert, Nicholls, Wilson and Sinclair as the committee.

It was decided to have two men's divisions, each of 14 teams, and one Ladies' division with 8 teams. The committee devised a set of rules. Clubs entering the league had to be within 7 miles distance of the Southampton Bargate. The entry fee was 7s 6d per team. Matches should commence no later than 7.30 pm, no matches were to be played on Saturdays or Sundays.

Each team consisted of 5 players and a match comprised of 25 games with each player playing one game against each opponent. The winning team was the one scoring the most points, irrespective of games won or lost.



THE FIRST HANDBOOK 1932 - 1933



CLUBS.

1. **Southampton.** Secretary: Mr. A. Parrott, Sports Cafe, Bedford Place, Southampton.
Men's A, Ladies.
Play at The Sports Cafe, Bedford Place, Southampton.
2. **Eastleigh Young Men's Institute.** Secretary: Mr. W. G. White, 6, Cherbourg Road, Eastleigh.
Men's B.
Play at Market Street, Eastleigh.
3. **Escombe and McGrath.** Secretary: Mr. A. M. Rowthorne, 18, Canute Road, Southampton.
Men's B.
Play at 18, Canute Road, Southampton.
4. **Austin House.** Secretary: Mr. J. Parker, Austin House, 75, The Avenue, Southampton.
Men's A.
Play at 75, The Avenue, Southampton.
5. **Pirelli General (Eastleigh).** Secretary: Mr. Porter, Pirellis Sports Club, Eastleigh. 'Phone Eastleigh 162.
Men's B.
Play at Pirellis Sports Ground, Eastleigh.

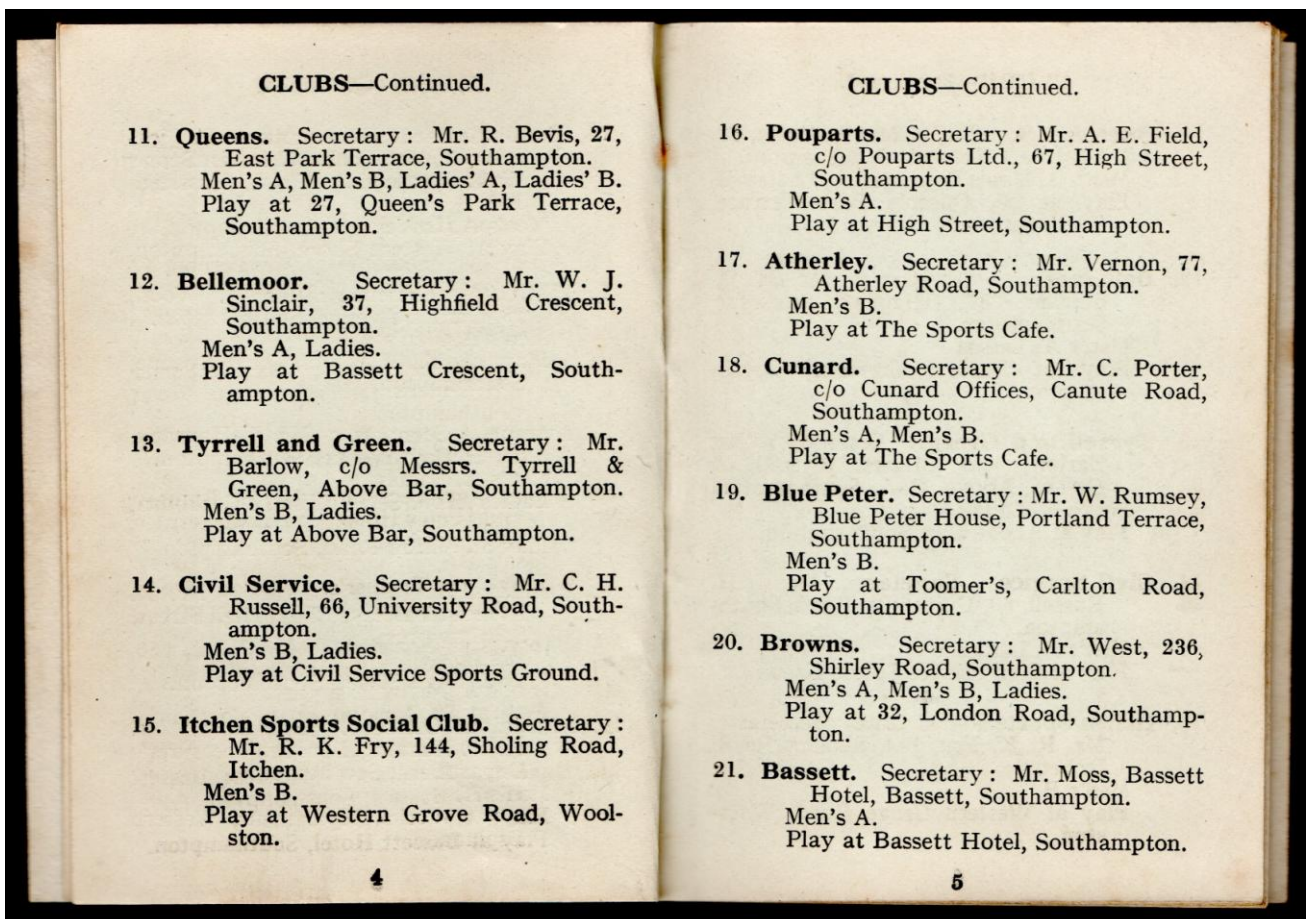
2

CLUBS—Continued.

6. **Pirelli General (Southampton).** Secretary: Mr. Porter, Pirellis Sports Club, Eastleigh. 'Phone Eastleigh 162.
Men's A, Ladies.
Play at Western Shore, Southampton.
7. **Y.M.C.A.** Secretary: Mr. J. Wood, 28, Gordon Avenue, Southampton.
Men's A, Men's B.
Play at Y.M.C.A., off The Avenue, Southampton.
8. **Avenue.** Secretary: Mr. J. Hancock, 21, Shirley Avenue, Southampton.
Men's A, Ladies.
Ladies' Hon. Sec.: Miss L. Cockburn, 113, Wilton Road.
Play at Wilton Road, Southampton.
9. **Barclays Bank.** Secretary: Mr. R. Nichols, Barclays Bank, High Street, Southampton.
Men's A.
Play at High Street, Southampton.
10. **Municipal Officers.** Secretary: Mr. H. W. Manning, Borough Treasurer's Department, Southampton.
Men's A.
Play at Works Department, Western Esplanade.

3

21 Clubs 34 teams 2 Mens Divisions 1 Ladies Division



CLUBS—Continued.

11. **Queens.** Secretary: Mr. R. Bevis, 27, East Park Terrace, Southampton.
Men's A, Men's B, Ladies' A, Ladies' B.
Play at 27, Queen's Park Terrace, Southampton.
12. **Bellemoor.** Secretary: Mr. W. J. Sinclair, 37, Highfield Crescent, Southampton.
Men's A, Ladies.
Play at Bassett Crescent, Southampton.
13. **Tyrrell and Green.** Secretary: Mr. Barlow, c/o Messrs. Tyrrell & Green, Above Bar, Southampton.
Men's B, Ladies.
Play at Above Bar, Southampton.
14. **Civil Service.** Secretary: Mr. C. H. Russell, 66, University Road, Southampton.
Men's B, Ladies.
Play at Civil Service Sports Ground.
15. **Itchen Sports Social Club.** Secretary: Mr. R. K. Fry, 144, Sholing Road, Itchen.
Men's B.
Play at Western Grove Road, Woolston.

4

CLUBS—Continued.

16. **Pouparts.** Secretary: Mr. A. E. Field, c/o Pouparts Ltd., 67, High Street, Southampton.
Men's A.
Play at High Street, Southampton.
17. **Atherley.** Secretary: Mr. Vernon, 77, Atherley Road, Southampton.
Men's B.
Play at The Sports Cafe.
18. **Cunard.** Secretary: Mr. C. Porter, c/o Cunard Offices, Canute Road, Southampton.
Men's A, Men's B.
Play at The Sports Cafe.
19. **Blue Peter.** Secretary: Mr. W. Rumsey, Blue Peter House, Portland Terrace, Southampton.
Men's B.
Play at Toomer's, Carlton Road, Southampton.
20. **Browns.** Secretary: Mr. West, 236, Shirley Road, Southampton.
Men's A, Men's B, Ladies.
Play at 32, London Road, Southampton.
21. **Bassett.** Secretary: Mr. Moss, Bassett Hotel, Bassett, Southampton.
Men's A.
Play at Bassett Hotel, Southampton.

5

LOCATION OF CLUBS FOR THE FIRST SEASON 1932 - 1933

EASTLEIGH

EASTLEIGH YOUNG MENS INSTITUTE (1) Market Stret, Eastleigh	PIRELLI EASTLEIGH (1) Pirelli Sports Ground Eastleigh
---	--

BASSETT & THE AVENUE

YMCA (2) off The Avenue	AVENUE (2) Wilton Road	AUSTIN HOUSE (1) 75 The Avenue
BASSETT (1) Bassett Hotel 111 Burgess Road	BELLEMOOR (2) Bassett Crescent	

SHIRLEY

SOUTHAMPTON CITY

CIVIL SERVICE (2) Civil Service Sports Ground Shirley	TOOMERS (1) BLUE PETER (1) The Carlton Sports House, 1 Carlton Road	ATHERLEY (1) CUNARD (2) SOUTHAMPTON (2) Sports Café, 28b Bedford Place
		BROWNS (3) 32 London Road
	TYRRELL & GREEN (2) Above Bar	QUEENS (4) 27 Queens Park Terrace
	POUPARTS (1) 67 High Street	BARCLAYS BANK (1) High Street
	MUNICIPAL OFFICES (1) Works Dept Western Esplanade	ESCOMBE & MCGRATH (1) 18 Canute Road
		ITCHEN SPORTS SOCIAL CLUB (1) Western Grove Road Woolston
		PIRELLI SOUTHAMPTON (2) Western Shore

WOOLSTON

Two divisions of equal standard were decided upon because they were not sure of the entering teams abilities. The winners of the A division and the winners of the B division were joint winners of the new shield.

A Division winners : **Municipal Officers**

F C Kingsnorth, R G Grace, H W Manning, H H White, A M Carroll, D L Baker

B Division winners : **Civil Service**

H J Burt, F Milligan, H W Hughes, W Cunningham, R G Fulton, McDirmid

Ladies League winners : **Bellemoor**

Miss Witt, Mrs Bosworth, Miss Fisher, Miss Dandy, Miss Mitchell, Mrs White

At the AGM it was recognised that this first season had been largely experimental and praise was given to Chairman **Samuel N Wakelam**, Secretary **Robert A Parrott** and Treasurer **Harry E Pring** whose pioneering work had led to a very successful first season. Considerable time was taken over a careful revision of the rules. Among the alterations was to extend from 6 to 7 miles radius from the Bargate for clubs being eligible to enter the league. It was also decided that every clubs should have a regular home night, since the arrangements for matches had proved difficult and time consuming.

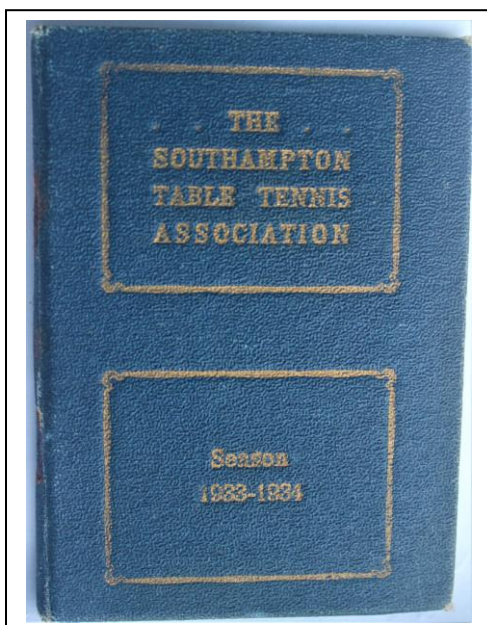


1932/33 WINNERS

Pictured above is the chairman A Wakelam holding the shield. The captain of the Municipal Offices team, R G Fulton, is on the left and captain of the Civil service team, H W Manning, is on the right. Civil Service won the A Division and Municipal Officers won the B Division.

The Ladies League was won by Bellemoor, but did not feature in the picture!

SEASON 1933/34



Division 2

COX'S SPORTS DEPOT

28 HIGH STREET SOUTHAMPTON
Phone - 4348

We Specialise in ..

SPORTS GOODS

For all Indoor and Outdoor Sports and Games.

YOU ARE INVITED TO INSPECT OUR NEW RANGE OF SEASONABLE GOODS AT ANY TIME

Week Commencing October 9th, 1933.

Bellemoor	v Municipal " B "
Bassett	v Y.M.C.A. " B "
Pirelli General (Southampton)	v Hiltingbury " A "
Browns	v Escombe & McGrath
Civil Service " B "	v Atherley
Cambrians	v Southampton Police

Week Commencing October 16th, 1933.

Municipal " B "	v Bassett
Y.M.C.A. " B "	v Bellemoor
Escombe & McGrath	v Pirelli General (Southampton)
Hiltingbury " A "	v Civil Service " B "
Southampton Police	v Browns
Atherley	v Cambrians

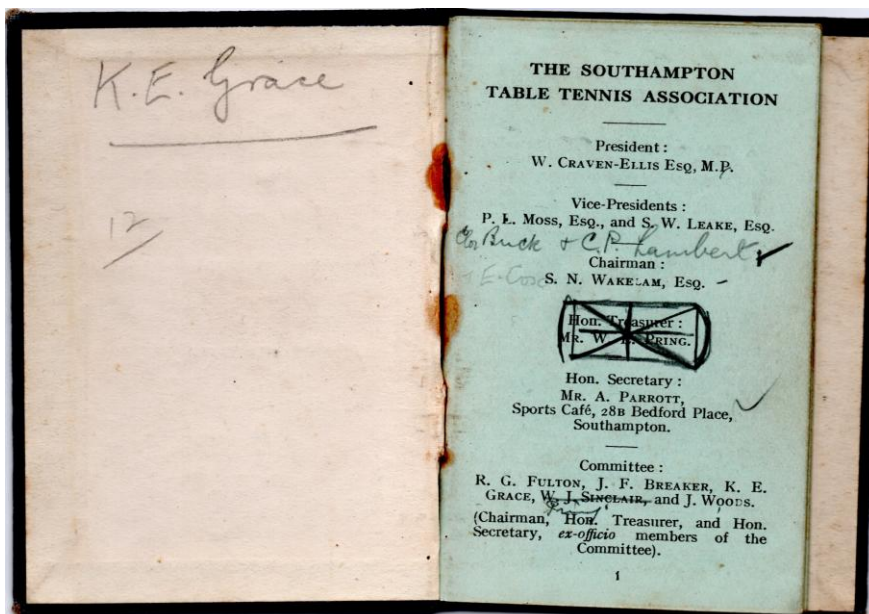
Week Commencing October 23rd, 1933.

Bellemoor	v Hiltingbury " A "
Pirelli General (Southampton)	v Municipal " B "
Bassett	v Escombe & McGrath
Cambrians	v Y.M.C.A. " B "
Browns	v Atherley
Civil Service " B "	v Southampton Police

24 25

1933/34 saw an increase of two more ladies teams and ten more mens so a third division was established. It is interesting to note that Lyndhurst were refused entry to the league as it was too far to travel!

This season was marked by the election to the committee of a person who was to prove to be one of the most influential and inspirational members in the history of the Association - **Mr Ken Grace**. Ken, who was no mean player as well as being a very active committee member, played for the Municipal Officers team. They played at the Police Social Club which was behind Currys

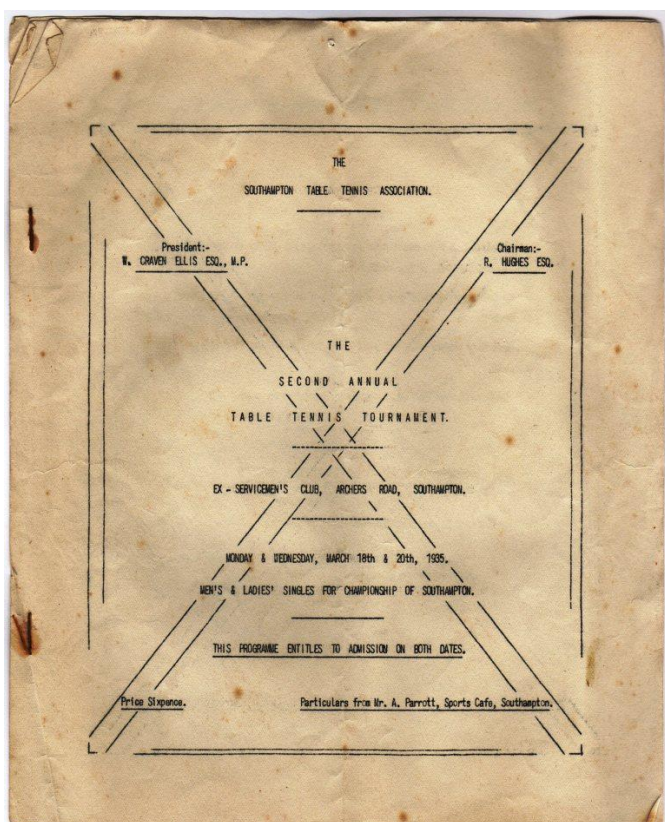


The teams for this season were organised into three mens divisions and one ladies division. **Civil Service** were winners of Division 1, **YMCA B** won Division 2 and **Crow's Nest** won Division 3. Crow's Nest played at Chantry Hall. **Bellemoor** once again won the Ladies Division.

This year saw the first Southampton Closed Tournament to take place at the Edwin Jones and Company's Restaurant, **H J Burt (Civil Service)** taking the mens title and **Miss F Witt (Bellemoor)** taking the ladies title. A Knock-out Team Competition was organised for the first time. **YMCA** were the Mens winners and **Bellemoor** were the ladies winners.

The **1934/35** season saw another division added to the men's league. **Civil Service** were once again winners of Division 1, **Municipal B** won Division 2, **SCED A** won Division 3, and **Pirelli C** were Division 4 winners. In the Ladies Division **Avenue** were the new champions with previous winners Bellemoor runners up.

THE SECOND ANNUAL SOUTHAMPTON TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT MARCH 1935



CHAMPIONSHIP OF SOUTHAMPTON - LADIES' OPEN SINGLES - LEVEL - BEST OF THREE GAMES.
Championship Cup presented by Southampton Table Tennis Association. Holder, Miss F. WITT. (Bellemoor).

1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round	Semi-Final	Final	Winner
1. Miss Clark	Mrs. Clark	Mrs. Morge			
2. Mrs. Morge	Mrs. Morge	21-19, 21-9	Mrs. Morge		
3. Mrs. Stone	Mrs. Stone	Mrs. Witt			
4. Mrs. Witt	Mrs. Witt	21-12, 21-15			
5. Mrs. Hayward	Mrs. Hayward	Mrs. Hayward			
6. Mrs. Hayward	Mrs. Hayward	21-10, 21-8			
7. Mrs. Enticott	Mrs. Enticott	21-12, 1-19			
8. Mrs. Enticott	Mrs. Enticott	21-12, 1-19			
9. Miss Hancock	Miss Hancock	Miss James			
10. Miss Hancock	Miss Hancock	Miss James			
11. Miss James	Miss James	21-10, 21-14			
12. Miss James	Miss James	21-10, 21-14			
13. Miss Jones	Miss Jones	Miss Goodman			
14. Miss Jones	Miss Jones	21-14, 21-8			
15. Mrs. Goodman	Mrs. Goodman	21-17, 19-21, 21-15			
16. Mrs. Goodman	Mrs. Goodman	21-17, 19-21, 21-15			
17. Miss Fisher	Miss Fisher	Miss Fisher			
18. Miss Fisher	Miss Fisher	21-12, 21-14			
19. Miss Hill	Miss Hill	21-9, 21-19			
20. Miss Hill	Miss Hill	21-9, 21-19			
21. Miss Praving	Miss Praving	Miss Praving			
22. Miss Praving	Miss Praving	21-15, 21-16			
23. Miss Atkinson	Miss Atkinson	Miss Stewart			
24. Miss Atkinson	Miss Atkinson	21-17, 20-20			
25. Miss Ferguson	Miss Ferguson	Miss Stewart			
26. Miss Ferguson	Miss Ferguson	21-15, 21-16			
27. Miss Stewart	Miss Stewart	21-17, 20-20			
28. Miss Stewart	Miss Stewart	21-17, 20-20			

The second annual tournament took place at the Ex-Serviceman's Club in Archer Road.

LADIES SINGLES

Mrs Hayward beat Miss Fisher 21-10, 21-14

TABLE TENNIS SEMI-FINALISTS



SEMI FINALS

MENS

H Burt beat E Stanbrook
21-9, 21-13

K Grace beat C Whitren
21-10, 21-18

LADIES

Mrs Hayward beat Mrs Morgel
21-9, 21-12

Miss Fisher beat Miss Stewart
18-21, 21-18, 21-12

“Echo” photo
Semi-finalists in the Southampton Table Tennis singles championships played at the Ex-Servicemen's Club, Archer Road, last night. Standing: C. Whitren, E. Stanbrook, K. Grace, H. Burt (winner). Seated: Miss Stewart, Miss Fisher, Mrs. Hayward (winner), Mrs. Morgel.

From left to right: Men - C Whitren, F Stanbrook, Ken Grace, H Burt

Ladies - Miss Stewart, Miss Fisher, Mrs Hayward, Mrs Morgel

CHAMPIONSHIP OF SOUTHAMPTON, MEN'S OPEN SINGLES - LEVEL - BEST OF THREE GAMES.
Championship Cup presented by C. P. Lambert Esq., Holder, Mr. H. Burt (Civil Service).

1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round	4th Round	Semi-Final	Finalist
1. Taylor H.	Taylor	Grace	Grace	Grace	Grace
2. Grace K.	Grace	21-15, 21-18	21-9, 21-10	23-22, 11-21, 21-19	21-10, 21-18
3. Board P.	Board	W.O.			
4. Baird J.	Baird	W.O.			
5. Manning H.	Manning	Manning	Manning		
6. Purkis C.	Purkis	21-8, 21-11	23-21, 21-17		
7. Chaffin R.	Davis	23-21, 23-21	18-21, 21-19, 21-12		
8. Davis S.	Davis	18-21, 21-19, 21-12			
9. Hill T.	Mansbridge	21-16, 21-18			
10. Easton D.	Mansbridge	21-16, 21-18			
11. Brackstone R.	Whitren	21-16, 21-14	21-15, 21-19		
12. Whitren C.	Whitren	21-12, 21-19			
13. Voles C.	Pearcey	21-9, 19-21, 21-19	14-21, 21-18, 21-17		
14. Parrott A.	Pearcey	21-9, 19-21, 21-19			
15. Griggs L.	Boyd	21-9, 21-15			
16. Bryce E.	Paine	21-12, 21-17			
17. Paine R.	Paine	21-19, 18-21, 21-11			
18. Harris N.	Curtis	21-10, 21-17			
19. Disbury V.	Mullet	21-5, 21-7			
20. Curtis A.	W.O.				
21. Huby L.					
22. Mallet V.					
23. Collier R.					
24. Riddell C.					

Continued Over.

CHAMPIONSHIP OF SOUTHAMPTON, MEN'S OPEN SINGLES - Continued.

1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round	4th Round	Semi-Final	Finalist
25. Fagg T.	Stewart	21-17, 20-21	Stewart		
26. Stuart G.	Dymott	W.O.	21-15, 21-17	Stewart	
27. Ross C.	W.O.				
28. Dymott D.	W.O.				
29. Carroll A.	Carroll	21-16, 21-6	21-8, 21-13		
30. Bowarth E.	Carroll	21-16, 21-6			
31. Stanbrook E.	Stanbrook	19-21, 21-6, 21-16	21-16, 21-18		
32. Burden N. A.	Stanbrook	19-21, 21-6, 21-16			
33. Jackson C.	Jackson	16-21, 21-11, 21-19	21-19, 18-21, 21-18	Stanbrook	
34. Bark J.	Jackson	16-21, 21-11, 21-19			
35. Effroy E.	Effroy	W.O.	21-6, 21-17		
36. Elliot D.	W.O.				
37. Shannon G.	Shannon	21-19, 22-23, 21-18	18-21, 21-13, 21-16		
38. Masters F.	Milligan	18-21, 21-13, 21-16			
39. Willigan F.	Milligan	21-7, 17-21, 21-12			
40. Routhome A.	Hooker	21-14, 21-11			
41. Hooker G.	Hooker	21-14, 21-11			
42. Hoakins -	Burt	21-10, 21-11			
43. Burt H.	Burt	18-21, 21-12, 21-15			
44. Clark -	Burt	18-21, 21-12, 21-15			
45. Ledbrook L.	Egerton	21-16, 17-21, 21-15	21-13, 21-13		
46. Egerton	Egerton	21-16, 17-21, 21-15			
47. Breaker J.	Breaker	22-23, 17-21, 21-15			
48. Breaker J.	Breaker	22-23, 17-21, 21-15			
49. Walker S.	Walker	21-12, 21-10			
50. Walker S.	Walker	21-12, 21-10			
51. McLoughlin J.	McLoughlin	21-14, 21-15			
52. McLoughlin J.	McLoughlin	21-14, 21-15			
53. Redstone A.	Redstone	21-11, 23-20			
54. Redstone A.	Redstone	21-11, 23-20			
55. Freemantle D.	Freemantle	21-12, 22-23, 23-20			
56. Freemantle D.	Freemantle	21-12, 22-23, 23-20			

Winner: Burt
21-18, 21-19

The men's winner was **H Burt (Civil Service)** beating Ken Grace (Municipal Offices) 21-18, 21-19.

In the early years the Civil Service club dominated the league. H Burt had won the first two Southampton Championships and when his team mate Wally Muller arrived on the scene the two players were the leading city players for at least the next ten years. Muller played a fast half-volley game coupled stated with a devastating attack which enabled him to be invited to participate in England trials. The ETTA hon sec. Mr Pope stated that it was the opinion of Victor Barna and all the England internationals that Muller was the hardest hitting player currently playing and it was only his penholder grip which prevented him becoming one of the country's leading players.

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS COMES TO SOUTHAMPTON IN 1935

International table tennis came to Southampton as part of **Victor Barna's** five year tour of Europe and America. Victor Barna was a four times World Champion from Hungary. Because of anti semitism in his country he moved to Britain and fought in the British Army and eventually became a British national. He toured with M Szabados (world champion 1931) and L Bellack (3 time world champion silver medallist).

The Hungarian stars, gave an exhibition at the Central Hall, St Marys Street. They were joined on the tour with the English players A A Haydon and A G Miller. H Burt and W Muller of Southampton played an exhibition match before the main programme.

It does seem amazing that only three years after the Association was formed that they managed to stage such a successful an event with 1,100 spectators.

Chocolates and cigarettes were on sale at the entrance as well as BARNA's book on table tennis priced 6p!

SOUTHAMPTON TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

EXHIBITION MATCHES

by

Famous International Players

at the

CENTRAL HALL, SOUTHAMPTON

Thursday, 5th December, 1935, at 7.30 p.m.

Under the Patronage of the Mayor of Southampton (Ald. T. H. Sanders) and the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth (Ald. W. J. Avens)

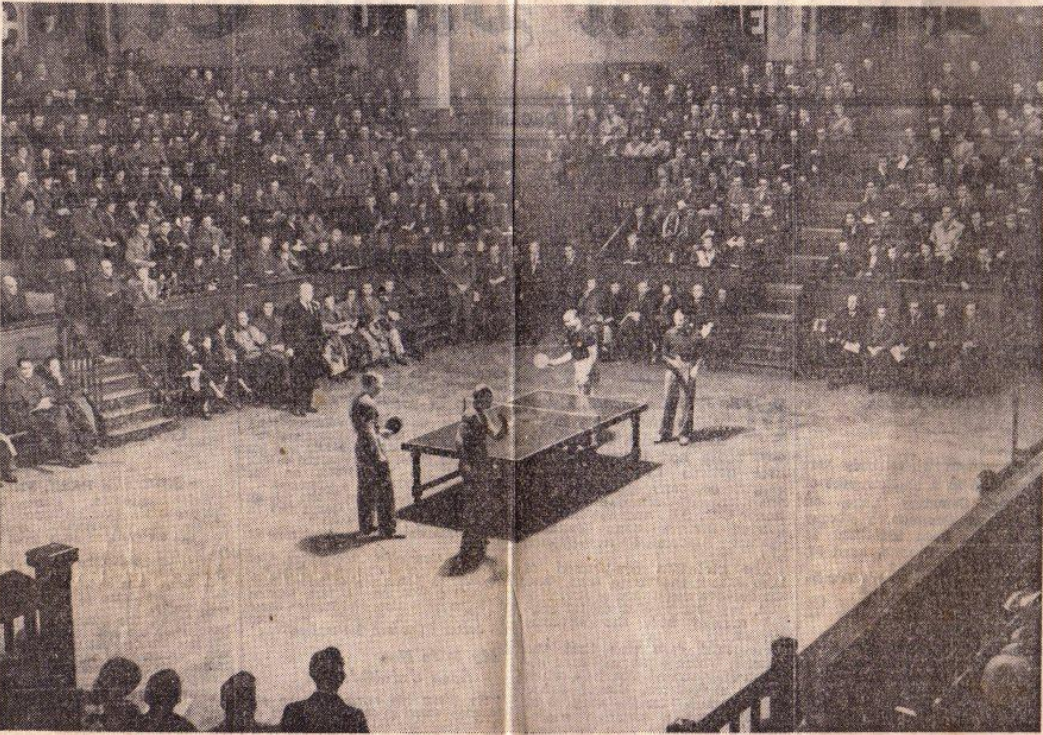


M. SZABADOS (Hungary) congratulating G. V. BARNÁ (Hungary) after being defeated by him in the Final of the World's Championship at Wembley, February, 1935

PROGRAMME 2d.

FRIDAY, SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO DECEMBER 6, 1935

TABLE TENNIS STARS AT SOUTHAMPTON



"ECHO" photo.

A general view of the Central Hall, Southampton, when famous international table tennis players gave exhibition games last night. G. V. Barna and M. Szabados (Hungary) are seen at the farther end of the table. The other players are A. A. Haydon (England) and L. Bellak (Hungary).

Victor Barna and M Zabados (at the far end) playing A A Haydon and L Bellack

Division 1 was once again won by **Civil Service A** just 2 points ahead of Southampton with Municipal Offices third. **Division 2** was won by **SCED A** just ahead of Crows Nest A. **Division 3** winners were **Bitterne Park Congregational** and Lyndhurst B were the winners of Division 4. In the **Ladies Division Avenue** retained their title, with Bellemoor A in second place.

Bellemoor win Womens Team Competition

For the second successive year **Bellemoor** have won the Southampton women's team knockout competition. They played Avenue in the final at the Civil Service Club and won nby 14 games to 10. The two clubs have , ever since the league started, been keen rivals and each club has won the knockout cup twice and the League shield twice. The outstanding player in the final was **Mrs Hayward** of Avenue who has had a record of wins this season



The **1936 Annual Tournament** was held at Mount Pleasant Boys School and two time winner Harry Burt was expected to win the men's title . He beat his club mate W Muller 23-21 and 21-14 in the semi final but was unexpectedly beaten by young **C Whitren (YMCA)** 21-19 in the fifth set.

In the ladies event Mrs D Hayward of the Avenue Club, the defending champion, who before the event had not lost a game for two years was beaten by **Mrs Iris Enticott of the Albion Club Eastleigh**. It was a very close match the score being 21-19, 21-19 and 12-19.

P - R - O - G - R - A - M - M - E	
<p>1. WOMEN'S SINGLES HANDICAP.—FINAL (Winner, 1935—Mrs. ENTICOTT.) Miss F. WITT (1) v. Miss STEWART (3) (Bellemoor) (Civil Service) Result <i>Miss Witt 21-12, 21-16, 21-16</i></p>	<p>7. WOMEN'S SINGLES LEVEL.—FINAL (Winner, 1935—Mrs. D. HAYWARD.) Mrs. ENTICOTT or Miss M. BARTLETT (Albion) (Civil Service) Mrs. D. HAYWARD or Miss F. WITT (Avenue) (Bellemoor) Result <i>Mrs. Enticott 21-19, 21-19, 21-19</i></p>
<p>2. MEN'S SINGLES LEVEL.—SEMI-FINALS. C. WHITREN v. J. D. BUCK (Y.M.C.A.) (Southampton) Result <i>Whitren 21-10, 21-15</i></p>	<p>8. MEN'S SINGLES LEVEL.—FINAL (Winner, 1935—H. BURT.) H. BURT or W. MULLER (Civil Service) (Civil Service) 1934 H. Burt C. WHITREN v. J. D. BUCK (Y.M.C.A.) (Southampton) Result <i>Whitren 7-21, 21-18, 21-17, 15-21, 21-19</i></p>
<p>3. H. BURT v. W. MULLER (Civil Service) (Civil Service) Result <i>Burt 23-21, 21-14</i></p>	<p>9. WOMEN'S DOUBLES.—FINAL (Winners, 1935—Miss JUKES and Mrs. HAYWARD.) Miss FERGUSON and v. Miss JUKES and Miss HANCORN Mrs. HAYWARD (Avenue) (Avenue) Result <i>Miss Ferguson and Miss Hancorn 22-20, 21-16, 17-21, 23-21</i></p>
<p>4. WOMEN'S SINGLES LEVEL.—SEMI-FINALS. Mrs. ENTICOTT v. Miss M. BARTLETT (Albion) (Civil Service) Result <i>Mrs. Enticott 21-11, 21-16.</i></p>	<p>10. MEN'S DOUBLES.—FINAL (Winners, 1935—H. BURT and W. MULLER.) H. BURT and v. M. MAXING and W. MULLER R. E. GRACE (Civil Service) (Municipal) Result <i>Burt + Muller 21-17, 21-14, 21-18</i></p>
<p>5. Mrs. D. HAYWARD v. Miss F. WITT (Avenue) (Bellemoor) Result <i>Mrs. Hayward 21-16, 19-21, 21-19</i></p>	<p>PRESENTATION OF CUPS, SHIELDS, etc. by COUNCILLOR HECTOR YOUNG, J.P.</p>
<p>6. MEN'S SINGLES HANDICAP.—FINAL (Winner, 1935—C. JACKSON.) W. MULLER (owe 6) v. F. W. CHAPPEL (8) (Civil Service) (Bitterne Park Congregationals) Result <i>Chapple 21-19, 21-17, 21-23, 21-16</i></p>	



Competitors in the finals of the Southampton table tennis championships at Mount Pleasant Schools last night. Back row (left to right): J. W. Chapple, J. D. Buck, W. Muller, H. Manning, K. E. Grace, C. Whitren, H. Burt. Front row: Miss Stewart, Miss M. Bartlett, Mrs. Enticott, Miss F. Witt, Mrs. D. Hayward, Miss Jukes, Miss Hancorn and Miss Ferguson.

"Echo" photo.

The Echo reported " Mrs Hayward's defeat came as a great surprise for she has so long dominated the women's game locally. Mrs Enticott's use of spin nonplussed Mrs Hayward at times.

THE SOUTHAMPTON TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION.

- President :
 W. CRAVEN-ELLIS, ESQ., M.P.
 Vice-Presidents :
 COUNCILLOR W. D. BUCK,
 E. P. COX, ESQ., C. P. LAMBERT, ESQ.,
 S. W. LEAKE, ESQ., P. L. MOSS, ESQ.,
 S. N. WAKELAM, ESQ.,
 COUNCILLOR HECTOR YOUNG, J.P.
 Chairman :
 R. HUGHES, ESQ.
 Vice-Chairman :
 J. F. BREAKER, ESQ.
 Hon. Secretary :
 R. G. FULTON,
 29 Darwin Road, Southampton.
 Phone 2473.
 Hon. Treasurer :
 H. V. HARRIS,
 49 St. James' Road, Southampton.
 Hon. Match Secretary :
 R. V. BEVIS,
 85 Sirdar Road, Highfield, Southampton.
 Committee :
 MISS M. JUKES, K. E. GRACE, L. HUMBY,
 A. E. RAWLINGS, and G. SHANNON.
 (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary,
 Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Match Secretary,
 ex-officio members of the Committee.)
 Auditors :
 MESSRS. HODGES and LEATHERS.



Mrs. D. Hayward (Avenue), undefeated in League matches for two seasons.

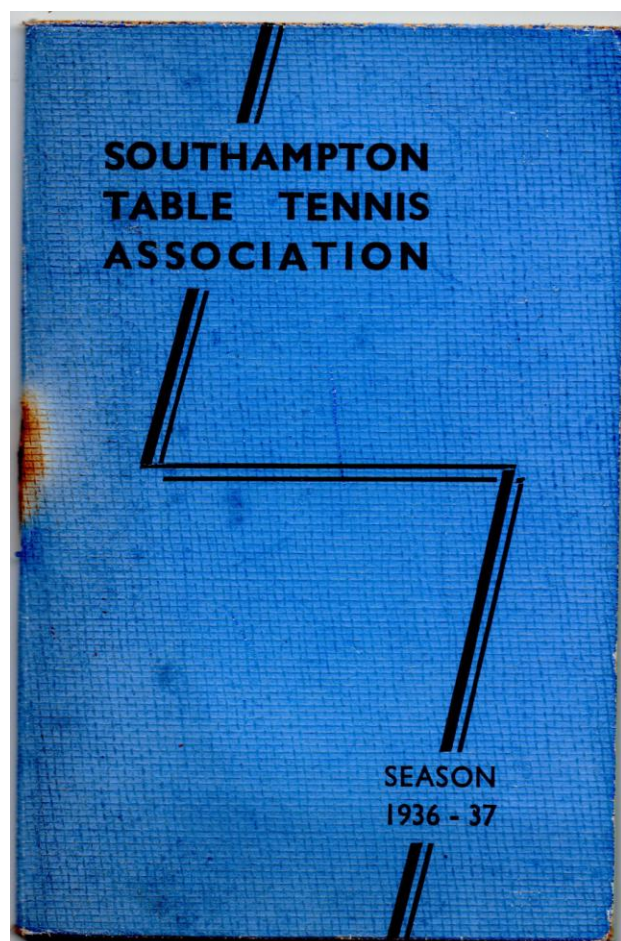
1936/37 This season once again attracted a record number of 38 clubs entering 75 teams. For the first time a fifth men's division was created. There was also a ladies second division for the first time. It was a season that was marred by postponements of matches with at once stage no fewer than 50 matches were outstanding. This resulted in many alterations to the rules at the AGM.

Division 1 of the Men's League was once again won by **Civil Service A** with SCED (Southampton Electricity Corporation) a close second. Other winners were: Division 2 Albion Eastleigh A, Division 3 Thirty Forty A, Division 4 Freemantle A, and Division 5 Bitterne Boys.

The Ladies Division 1 was won by **Bellemoor** who regained the title from Avenue. Division 2 winners were Civil service B.

The Annual tournament was held at the Mount Pleasant School. Mrs I Enticott of The Albion Club Eastleigh was the only person to retain their title. She beat K Bartlett of Civil Service quite easily, her greater variety of strokes and stronger attack being the principle factors in her victory. In consolation Mrs Bartlett did win both the Women's doubles (with Miss E Atkinson) and the mixed doubles with W L Muller. Muller, who had improved considerably this season, won the men's title by beating his Civil Service team mate B F Morant 21-14, 21-17 and 21-19.

HOW THEY STAND									
DIVISION 1									
	P	W	L	Ev	Ag	Tl	Points		
Civil Service A	21	20	1	40	20	60			
S.C.E.D. A	22	20	2	40	20	60			
Y.M.C.A. A	21	18	3	36	17	53			
Municipal Officers A	19	12	7	24	13	37			
Southampton	18	11	7	22	11	33			
Crow's Nest A	20	10	10	20	10	30			
Municipal Officers B	19	8	11	16	8	24			
Avenue	20	8	12	16	8	24			
Bellemoor A	22	8	14	16	8	24			
Y.M.C.A. B	21	3	18	6	4	10			
Escombe McGrath	19	2	17	4	1	5			
Pirelli-General A	20	1	19	2	1	3			
DIVISION 2									
Albion Eastleigh A	18	17	1	34	17	51			
Tyrrell and Green's	17	14	3	28	14	42			
Civil Service B	17	14	3	28	14	42			
Bitterne Park Congs.	16	12	4	24	13	37			
St. James	15	9	6	18	8	26			
Austin House	17	6	11	12	6	18			
Camabrians	17	5	12	10	5	15			
S.C.E.D. B	17	4	13	8	4	12			
Pouparts	17	3	14	6	3	9			
Browns	16	0	16	0	0	0			
DIVISION 3									
Thirty Forty A	20	20	0	40	20	60			
"Echo" Social	19	16	3	32	16	48			
Ex-Service Men	19	14	5	28	14	42			
Albion Eastleigh B	18	13	5	26	13	39			
Lyndhurst	20	11	9	22	10	32			
Crow's Nest B	19	9	10	20	10	30			
Y.M.C.A. C	19	8	11	16	7	23			
Allen West	18	4	14	8	5	13			
Bellemoor B	19	4	15	8	4	12			
Lyndhurst A	19	4	15	8	4	12			
S.C.E.D. C	20	1	19	2	2	4			
DIVISION 4									
Freemantle A	16	13	3	26	15	41			
Queen's	16	14	2	28	12	40			
West End	16	11	5	22	11	33			
Northam Boys A	16	11	5	22	10	32			
Albion Eastleigh C	16	7	9	14	6	20			
Church Lads' Bgde.	16	5	11	10	5	15			
Thirty Forty B	16	4	12	8	5	13			
Marchwood	16	4	12	8	3	11			
Colbury A	16	3	13	6	4	10			
DIVISION 5									
Bitterne Boys	14	14	0	28	14	42			
St. Mary's (Sholing)	13	11	2	22	11	33			
Woolston and Sholing	14	8	6	16	8	24			
Dockland Settlement	11	7	4	14	7	21			
Freemantle B	12	5	7	10	4	14			
Gleblans	14	3	11	6	4	10			
Northam Boys B	11	3	8	6	2	8			
Docks and Marine	13	0	13	0	1	1			
DIVISION 1 (WOMEN)									
Bellemoor A	18	17	1	34	18	52			
Civil Service A	17	16	1	32	15	47			
Avenue	16	13	3	26	12	38			
Albion (E'leigh) A	16	9	7	18	10	28			
Thirty Forty A	16	9	7	18	9	27			
Bellemoor B	18	8	10	16	8	24			
Lyndhurst A	16	5	11	10	4	14			
Gleblans	17	4	13	8	4	12			
Tyrrell and Green's	15	2	13	4	2	6			
Westend	17	0	17	0	0	0			
DIVISION 2 (WOMEN)									
Civil Service B	16	15	1	30	15	45			
S.C.E.D.	15	13	2	26	13	39			
Camabrians	15	11	4	22	12	34			
Pirelli-General	12	7	5	14	7	21			
Marchwood	15	7	8	14	7	21			
Thirty Forty B	16	7	9	14	6	20			
Albion Eastleigh B	16	5	11	10	5	15			
Lyndhurst B	15	3	12	6	3	9			
Queen's	16	0	16	0	0	0			



**TOOMER
for
TENNIS**

**AND THIS APPLIES
TO TABLE TENNIS**

Recognised by all
the Best Players

TOOMER
19 LONDON ROAD
SOUTHAMPTON (Only Address)
Tel. 4753

II

1937/38 In Division 1 The Civil Service were once again champions for the 5th year in a row. The winners of the other divisions were as follows: Division 2 St James, Division 3 Freemantle A and Division 4 Shellsparks A. It was a double for the Civil Service Club with their ladies team winning Division 1, Cambrians were the Winners of Division 2 (women). The players with the leading averages in the league were awarded a shield. These were W L Muller (Civil Service A) Men's and Mrs Hayward (Civil Service) Ladies.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL SOUTHAMPTON TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT MARCH 1938



The Mayor of Southampton (Councillor G. E. H. Prince) congratulating Mrs. I. Enticott (Albion, Eastleigh) on winning the Women's Table Tennis Championship of Southampton for the third year in succession. Others to whom the Mayor presented prizes are, left to right, Miss M. Jukes and Mrs. Hayward (winners of the women's doubles), E. Vening (winner, men's singles handicap), N. Facey (runner-up, men's singles and doubles), Miss K. Bartlett (winner, mixed doubles), W. L. Muller (winner, men's singles, doubles and mixed doubles championships) and H. J. Burt (winner, men's doubles). ["Echo" photo]

Mrs I Enticott being presented by the Mayor of Southampton with the Ladies Singles cup and W L Muller holding the Men's Singles, Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles cups.

The 5th Annual Tournament took place at St Marks Hall in Archers Lane in the presence of a large number of people. Both singles championships were retained by their holders.

W L Muller (Civil Service) showed that he was, by a good margin, the best player in the town. He comfortably beat N Facey in the final. **Mrs Iris Enticott of the Albion club Eastleigh** nearly lost hold of her title only winning 25-23 in the third deciding game. Her opponent, a previous holder, Mrs D Hayward of the Avenue club won the first game, but it was Mrs Enticott's greater variety of stroke play and her use of spin that proved to be the decisive factors.

The game of the evening was the mens doubles final in which the standard of play reached high levels. H J Burt and W L Muller, former holders of the title, regained the cups by beating N Facey and F Saunders. The match went full length to the fifth set.

This 1937/38 season brought about two important changes in the rules of table tennis. To combat the long drawn out rallies which had become an unwanted feature of the game, the net was lowered from 6 ¾ inches to 6 inches. This favoured the attacking type of game to the advantage of both players and spectators. The second change was to ban finger spin in the service delivery. Perhaps this was just as well as modern rubber technology would probably resulted in unreturnable services.

This same season the World Championships were held at Wembley. The STTA arranged group bookings for the event as well as printing and selling 400 tickets for the Southampton Closed Championships. Can you imagine 400 spectators for the Closed today, let alone getting them to pay.

1938/39 League

In the league the **YMCA A team won Division 1** beating Civil Service A by 2 points, thus ending Civil Service's run of 5 consecutive wins. **Echo Social were Division 2 winners, Shellsparks Division 3** and **Air Service Training Division 4** winners.

After having 2 Ladies divisions for the last two years there was only one division of 11 teams. This was a very closely fought contest with three time winners Bellemoor tied on points with Banister Avenue after both teams winning 18 matches each and losing just 2 . **Banister Avenue Ladies were declared the winners.**

THE SIXTH ANNUAL SOUTHAMPTON TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT MARCH 1939



Winners of the Southampton Table Tennis Championships photographed with the Sheriff of Southampton (Councilor R. N. Sinclair) at the finals last night. Left to right: Miss K. Bartlett, W. L. Muller (mixed doubles), H. J. Burt (men's doubles winner with Muller), Mrs. I. Enticott (women's singles), the Sheriff, L. Vivian (men's singles), Miss B. James and Miss V. Stewart (women's doubles). ["Echo" photo]

Pictured above are the 1939 winners. New Men's singles champion **L Vivian**. Ladies singles **Mrs Iris Enticott** (4th year in a row) **W L Muller & H J Burt** Mens doubles (4th time) **Muller and Miss K Bartlett** Mixed doubles (third year in a row). **Miss B James and Miss V Stewart** won the Ladies doubles.

LOCATION OF CLUBS FOR SEASON 1938 - 1939

EASTLEIGH				BITTERNE
YOUNG MENS BIBLE CLASS (1) Market Stret, Eastleigh	PIRELLI EASTLEIGH (3) Club House, Lodge Road	YOUNG MENS BIBLE CLASS (1) Market Stret, Eastleigh	WEST END (1) West End Tennis Club, West End Road, Bitterne	
SOUTHAMPTON CITY				
ST JAMES (1) Parish Hall, Bernard Street	BASSETT (1) Bassett Hotel 111 Burgess Road	AUSTIN HOUSE (1) 75 The Avenue	BELLEMOOR (4) Bassett Crescent	NORTHAM BOYS CLUB (2) Clarence Street, Northam
CAMBRIANS (1) Cambrians Tennis Club Pavilion, Hill Lane	BANISTER AVENUE (2) Tennis Club Pavilion Northlands Road	THIRTY - FORTY (3) Ice Rink Club, Banister Road	YMCA (3) off The Avenue	GLEBIANS(2) Martin Hall Brook Road Bitterne
	SOUTHAMPTON (1) EX SERVICE MENS CLUB (1) ESM Club Archers Road	BROWNS (1) Union Social Club 11 Cranberry Terrace	NORTHAM BOYS CLUB (2) Northam Boys Club, Clarence Street, Northam	BITTERNE PARK CONGS (2) Cong Church Cobden Avenue
SHIRLEY				WOOLSTON
CIVIL SERVICE (4) MUNICIPAL OFFICERS (1) Civil Service Sports Ground Shirley	SHELLSPARK SOCIAL CLUB (1) Commercial Road	TYRRELL & GREEN (1) Above Bar	SHEPHERD & HEDGERS (1) 119 East Street	WOOLSTON & SHOLING CONS & UNIONIST CLUB (1) St Annes Road, Woolston
FREEMANTLE (2) Freemantle Club Waterloo Rd	ECHO SOCIAL CLUB (1) Social Hall Spa Road	POUPARTS (1) 67 High Street	QUEENS (2) East Park Terrace	ALLEN WEST (1) AW Social Club, Weston Lane Woolston
NEW FOREST	SCED (1) Electricity Works, Western Esplanade	BARCLAYS BANK (1) High Street	CROWS NEST (1) Chantry Hall, St Marys Street	ST MARYS (SHOLING) YMC (1) Sholing Institute
LYNDHURST (3) Lyndhurst Tennis Club				HAMBLE
COLURY SOCIAL CLUB (1) Colbury Hall				AIR SERVICE TRAINING CLUB (1) Air Service Training Club Hamble

With the outbreak of war on 3rd September 1939 the committee decided that it would not be possible to carry out any part of the normal programme, but an effort be made to run a modified competition on the following lines and clubs be circularised accordingly. It was also resolved that a communication be sent to the A.R.P. officials. It was decided to call in all the cups from the holders and deposited in a place of safety. There would not be any trophies for the proposed competition

The league eventually started and consisted of two divisions. In **Division 1** (8 teams) **Civil Service A** were the winners and in **Division 2** (7 teams) **Civil Service B** were the winners.

The committee also managed to hold an annual tournament at The Highfield Institute in March.

In the **Mens singles** C R Whitren (YMCA) beat H J Burt in one semifinal and W L Muller beat Tipney in the second semi final. So two times winner 'Wally' Muller faced one time winner Whitren in the final which proved to be of a very high standard. Both men showed variety of shot, force in attack and good defensive powers, so that some of the rallies were long and brilliant. Whitren almost won it in two games, but Muller produced some splendid shots to match the second game. In the final game Whitren held the lead for most of the time, and though Muller made a brave fight and reduced his opponents lead **Whitren triumphed 21-17**.

The **Ladies singles** was won by **Mrs D Hayward** (Avenue Club Eastleigh) beating Miss K Bartlett (Civil Service). Mrs Hayward, who was champion in 1935, was a little too severe and accurate for Mrs Bartlett. She won in two straight sets but but the second was a little too close only winning 23-21. **Mrs Bartlett** and her fellow Civil Service partner **Miss P Prowting** won the **Womens Doubles**.

L W Muller and H J Burt won the **Mens doubles** for the fourth time. **Muller** also won the **Mixed Doubles** with **Mrs Bartlett**.

The final committee meeting of the season took place on 24th July 1940 and the committee didn't meet again until 5th October 1944 after World War 2 ended.

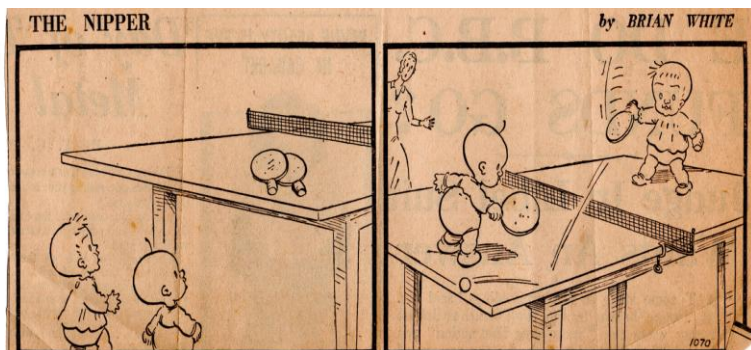


TABLE TENNIS

Play Up to Midnight at Southampton

HIGH STANDARD IN MEN'S SINGLES FINAL

By continuing play until nearly midnight it was possible almost to complete the Southampton table tennis tournament at Highfield Institute on Saturday.

Both singles were finished, and the women's doubles. The finals of the men's doubles and the mixed doubles, and one semi-final and the final of the handicap singles, will be played at the convenience of the players concerned.

C. R. Whitren (Y.M.C.A.) won the men's singles, beating W. L. Muller (Civil Service) in a three-set final which produced table tennis of a high standard. Both men showed variety of shot, force in attack and good defensive powers, so that some of the rallies were long and brilliant. Whitren almost won in two games, but Muller produced some splendid shots to match the second game. In the third, Whitren held the lead most of the time, and though Muller made a brave fight, and reduced his opponent's lead, Whitren got home at 21-17.

Whitren won the Southampton championship in 1936, and Muller in 1937 and 1938.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Mrs. D. Hayward (wife of Second Officer Hayward, of Southampton Fire Brigade) won the women's singles, beating Miss K. Bartlett (Civil Service) in the final by two games to love. Mrs. Hayward, who was the Southampton champion in 1935, was a little too severe and accurate for Miss Bartlett, but the second game was a very close affair, going to 23-21.

Miss Bartlett and her fellow Civil Service player, Miss P. Prowting, won the women's doubles.

In all three events which remain to be completed Muller is actively interested. With H. J. Burt he is in the final of the men's doubles, with Miss Bartlett he is in the final of the mixed doubles, and he has to play Whitren in the semi-final of the handicap singles. Smith, another Civil Service player, is in the finals of the handicap singles and the men's doubles.

Results:

MEN'S SINGLES

Second round: Burt beat Welsh, 21-19, 21-19; Pyie beat Stuart, 22-20, 18-21, 21-14; Whitren beat Clark, 21-10, 21-6; Tipney beat Saunders, 21-16, 22-20; Muller beat Morant, 21-16, 25-23; Grace beat Proudley, 21-16, 21-15.

Third round: Tipney beat Smith, 21-17, 21-13; Burt beat Grace, 21-16, 18-21, 21-13; Whitren beat Pyle, 21-15, 21-15; Muller beat Brooke, 21-14, 21-14.

Semi-final: Whitren beat Burt, 21-3, 21-11; Muller beat Tipney, 21-9, 21-8.

Final: Whitren beat Muller, 21-18, 20-22, 21-17.

STTA GALLERY

At the outbreak of war a register was compiled of everyone who was living in the UK for the purpose of issuing identity cards, ration books, and call up papers. This has been an invaluable resource to find out more about the committee and the players.



W L MULLER

Mens Singles
1937 – 1939
1947 – 1949
1952, 1955

Mens Doubles
1935 – 1940
1952, 1953

Mixed Doubles
1937 – 1940
1949 - 1952

W L Muller, known as Wally, in the pre war and post war era was Southampton's best player. In 1939 his occupation was described as Field Reviser and Draughtsman, Ordnance Survey. He played for the Civil Service Club and won the first Division from 1932 to 1939 and then 1947 to 1954. His record in the Hampshire Inter Town matches was second to none, being unbeaten for several years. He was also Hampshire's no 1 player with an excellent record in county matches.



HARRY J BURT was the first **Men's Singles** winner in **1933** and then again in **1934**. With W L Muller he was the **Men's Doubles** winner from **1934 – 1940**. He was a Customs Officer who lived at 87 King Georges Avenue and played for the Civil Service Club which was based at the Civil Service Sports Ground in Shirley.





CHARLES R WHITREN

Who played for the YMCA won the **Mens Singles** titles in **1936, 1940, 1946 and 1956**. He also won 3 **Mens Doubles** titles between **1948 and 1954**. His occupation in 1939 was described as a Semi Skilled Fitter and he lived at 4 Thackeray Road in Portswood. In 1943 he married Cordie Davies.



MRS D HAYWARD, who before coming to Southampton, was the Northern Ireland womens champion for two years. In **1935** she won the **Ladies Singles** and the **Ladies Doubles** (with Miss M Jukes pictured left) They won the doubles again in 1938 and she took the singles title for a second time in 1940. She played for the Avenue Club and for several years was unbeaten in the league.



MRS IRIS ENTICOTT,

in **1936** won the **Ladies Singles** narrowly defeating the defending champion Mrs Hayward. She then went on to retain the title for the next three years. She played for the Albion Club which was based at the Pavilion in Twyford Road in Eastleigh. Mrs Enticott joined the STTA Committee in 1938



MISS K BARTLETT with her partner W Muller won every **Mixed Doubles** title between **1934 and 1940**. She also won two **Ladies Doubles** titles in **1937 and 1940**, she played for the Civil Service Club. Although she didn't win the STTA Singles title she won the **Hampshire Ladies Singles** in **1935**.



The Committee

The founder members of the STTA who met in the Sports Café in Bedford Place on October 17th 1932 were as follows:

The Chairman, **Samuel N Wakelam**, lived at 180 Wilton Road, he was aged 36 and was a Company Secretary. The Secretary was **Robert Parrott** who lived at 9 Rigby Road and was a Ships Broker aged 50. The Treasurer was **William Pring** who lived at Greystoke, Heatherlands Road, Chilworth. He was an Estate Agent and Valuer, at the age of 29 he was doing quite well (this house today is valued at 1.6 million!)

They were also joined by **Charles P Lambert**, aged 29 an Automobile Engineer from Lyndhurst. **Roy Nichols** 43, a Bank Manager who lived at 19 College Place. **Arthur C Wilson** 49, a Clerk in the Education Office who lived at 42 Cunard Avenue. **William J Sinclair** who lived at 6 Chetwynd Drive and was a Civil Engineer for the Docks and the Railways.

Robert Hughes took over as Chairman in 1934. He lived at 57 Evelyn Crescent, he was aged 30 and was a Solicitor as well as a Special Constable. Also on the committee that year was **Ken Grace** at the age of 25 he was secretary to the General Manager of Southampton Corporation Transport (bus company) Ken served on the committee for 32 years including Chairman and President. He was joined by **Walter Fulton** an Education Officer at a Government Training Centre and **John Breaker** a Shipping Clerk and **Ronald Bevis** (the first Match Secretary) who was a Grocery Dispatch Manager and served on the committee for 20 years.

Arthur E Rawlings joined the committee in 1935, in 1939 he was described as a Journalist News Reporter aged 37. He lived at 3 Radway Road just off Hill Lane, he played for Cambrians he became Chairman in 1945 and then President in 1954.

One of the most influential members, who joined the committee in 1938, was **Miss Lena Ferguson**. She was the personal secretary to the Mayor and after the war was Secretary for ten years. As well as dealing with STTA matters she was involved with setting up Inter Town matches, a founder member of Hampshire TTA as well as being the Southern Region representative for the ETTA. On the 1939 register she was listed as living at 20 Atherley Road, aged 30 a Shorthand Typist, her father was a Boilermaker Foreman.

Players:

Harry J Burt the first men's singles winner in 1933 and then again in 1934 was a Customs Officer (played for the Civil Service Club) and lived at 87 King Georges Avenue.

Francis Milligan was the number 2 player at the Civil Service Club, he was a Clerk at the Friedly and Approved Society as well as a 'Spare Time Branch Secretary' and an ARP Warden. He lived at 29 King Georges Avenue.

Harry Burt's successor was **Charles R Whitren** (YMCA) who won in 1935, 1940 and 1946. He was described as a Fitter, Semi Skilled. He married Cordie Davies in 1943 they lived at 4 Thackeray Road, Bedford Place, she was a clerk.

Mrs Cordie Whitren won 2 singles titles, 3 mixed doubles and 7 women's doubles titles between 1940 and 1957.

Walter H Manning was the captain of the Municipal Officers team who won the league in its first season. He lived at 91a Millbrook Road and was a Ledger Clerk at Southampton City Corporation

Frederick K Kingsnorth was the no 1 player for Municipal Officers, he was a Wholesale Grocer living at 228 Hill Lane.

With the outbreak of war on 3rd September 1939 the committee decided that it would not be possible to carry out any part of the normal programme, but an effort be made to run a modified competition on the following lines and clubs be circularised accordingly. It was also resolved that a communication be sent to the A.R.P. officials. It was decided to call in all the cups from the holders and deposited in a place of safety. There would not be any trophies for the proposed competition

The league eventually started and consisted of two divisions. In **Division 1** (8 teams) **Civil Service A** were the winners and in **Division 2** (7 teams) **Civil Service B** were the winners.

The committee also managed to hold an annual tournament at The Highfield Institute in March.

In the **Mens singles** C R Whitren (YMCA) beat H J Burt in one semifinal and W L Muller beat Tipney in the second semi final. So two times winner 'Wally' Muller faced one time winner Whitren in the final which proved to be of a very high standard. Both men showed variety of shot, force in attack and good defensive powers, so that some of the rallies were long and brilliant. Whitren almost won it in two games, but Muller produced some splendid shots to match the second game. In the final game Whitren held the lead for most of the time, and though Muller made a brave fight and reduced his opponents lead **Whitren triumphed 21-17**.

The Ladies singles was won by **Mrs D Hayward** (Avenue Club Eastleigh) beating Miss K Bartlett (Civil Service). Mrs Hayward, who was champion in 1935, was a little too severe and accurate for Mrs Bartlett. She won in two straight sets but but the second was a little too close only winning 23-21. **Mrs Bartlett** and her fellow Civil Service partner **Miss P Prowting** won the **Womens Doubles**.

L W Muller and H J Burt won the **Mens doubles** for the fourth time. **Muller** also won the **Mixed Doubles** with **Mrs Bartlett**.

The final committee meeting of the season took place on 24th July 1940 and the committee didn't meet again until 5th October 1944 after World War 2 ended.

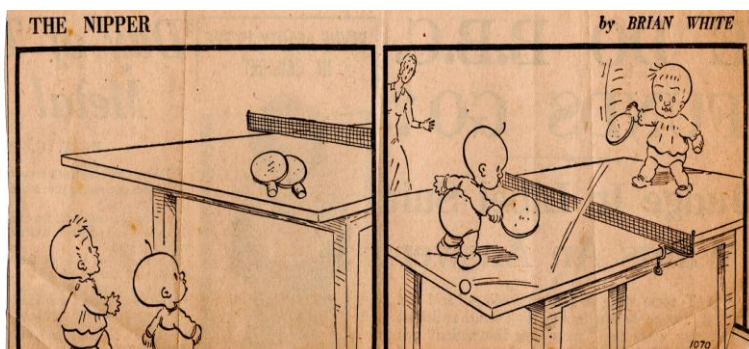


TABLE TENNIS

Play Up to Midnight at Southampton

HIGH STANDARD IN MEN'S SINGLES FINAL

By continuing play until nearly midnight it was possible almost to complete the Southampton table tennis tournament at Highfield Institute on Saturday.

Both singles were finished, and the women's doubles. The finals of the men's doubles and the mixed doubles, and one semi-final and the final of the handicap singles, will be played at the convenience of the players concerned.

C. R. Whitren (Y.M.C.A.) won the men's singles, beating W. L. Muller (Civil Service) in a three-set final which produced table tennis of a high standard. Both men showed variety of shot, force in attack and good defensive powers, so that some of the rallies were long and brilliant. Whitren almost won in two games, but Muller produced some splendid shots to match the second game. In the third, Whitren held the lead most of the time, and though Muller made a brave fight, and reduced his opponent's lead, Whitren got home at 21-17.

Whitren won the Southampton championship in 1936, and Muller in 1937 and 1938.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Mrs. D. Hayward (wife of Second Officer Hayward, of Southampton Fire Brigade) won the women's singles, beating Miss K. Bartlett (Civil Service) in the final by two games to love. Mrs. Hayward, who was the Southampton champion in 1935, was a little too severe and accurate for Miss Bartlett, but the second game was a very close affair, going to 23-21.

Miss Bartlett and her fellow Civil Service player, Miss P. Prowting, won the women's doubles.

In all three events which remain to be completed Muller is actively interested. With H. J. Burt he is in the final of the men's doubles, with Miss Bartlett he is in the final of the mixed doubles, and he has to play Whitren in the semi-final of the handicap singles. Smith, another Civil Service player, is in the finals of the handicap singles and the men's doubles.

Results:

MEN'S SINGLES

Second round: Burt beat Welsh, 21-19, 21-19; Pyle beat Stuart, 22-20, 18-21, 21-14; Whitren beat Clark, 21-10, 21-6; Tipney beat Saunders, 21-16, 22-20; Muller beat Morant, 21-16, 25-23; Grace beat Proudley, 21-16, 21-15.

Third round: Tipney beat Smith, 21-17, 21-13; Burt beat Grace, 21-16, 18-21, 21-13; Whitren beat Pyle, 21-15, 21-15; Muller beat Brooke, 21-14, 21-14.

Semi-final: Whitren beat Burt, 21-3, 21-11; Muller beat Tipney, 21-9, 21-8.

Final: Whitren beat Muller, 21-18, 20-22, 21-17.

1944/45

WARTIME LEAGUE 2

The main problem facing table tennis players at the end of the war was lack of equipment. Ken Miles recalled that there was a thriving "cottage industry" making bats, the main deficiency being a total lack of pimped rubber. Expediency won the day however, by the use of teapot stand rubber. T.T. balls were also unobtainable and full use was made of pre war balls which had survived. Cracked balls were repaired by a mixture of old balls dissolved in acetone!

The committee decided that it was inopportune to hold an Annual General Meeting and so a league could not take place.

Messrs C Whitren and S G Davis explained to the Chairman A E Rawlings that 12 clubs had already decided to enter teams in any competition that the committee could organise. However unless the proposed League was sponsored by STTA clubs would be unable to purchase equipment as this had to be purchased from the ETTA through the local Association.

Although many pre war clubs were not now functioning and a large number of players were away on service or various other tasks it was felt that there was sufficient support for a competition. After much discussion it was agreed that a "War Time" style League would go ahead and that Messrs Whitren and Davis would be co opted onto the committee. In the Echo it was reported that during the last two years the Charondon Sports and Social Club had been active in table tennis matters at their commodious premises at Cranbury Hall and the clubs that had been associated with them will form the nucleus of the War Time League.

This League was won by **Bitterne Congregational**. A Local tournament was held at the Cunliffe Owen Social Club on 25th March 1945, **C Whitren** winning the **mens singles**. There was also an **Open competition** arranged and **Whitren won** that as well.

1945/46

The STTA held their first AGM since the ceasing of activities in 1940 on 22nd July 1945. An entirely new committee was elected, Chairman A E Rawlings, Vice Chairman Ken Grace, Secretary Miss Lena Ferguson and Match Secretary D Dymott for the next ten years were a driving force not just for STTA but for table tennis in the Sothern Region.

Changes were made to the playing programme, previously teams consisted of 5 players per team who each played one set (up to 21) against each opponent, a total of 25 sets. Teams now consisted of 4 players and each player would play 3 of their opponents (best of 3 up to 21). There were also 2 doubles games so a total of 10 games were played during the evening.

To help with the finances a dance was held and exhibition matches were staged by Lt. Jack Carrington at the Highfield Institute and the Eastleigh Railway Institute. The new **Charondon** Club organised by their secretary **Ken Miles** were the new **First Division champions** with their number one **C R Whitren** unbeaten. **Southern Railway Institute A won Division Two** just one point ahead of Bellemoor and **Eastleigh Boys Club** won **Division Three** with **D Martin** unbeaten.

Over 100 competitors took part in the first STTA Championships to be held since the wars at the Carlton Drill Hall. **C R Whitren** the town's leading player for some years **won the Mens Singles** after an exciting final against W L Muller, not long back from the Army. **Muller** won the **Mens Doubles with N Facey** and then the **Mixed Doubles with Lena Ferguson**. The Ladies Singles was won by **Miss M L Brown** and the **Ladies Doubles** was won by **Miss Hale and Mrs S C Ramsay**.

1946/47

This season saw another increase in membership with 280 registered players in 37 teams at 21 clubs. The Southern Counties League was disbanded and a new Hampshire TT Association was formed. This was driven by the key officers of the STTA with **Secretary, Miss Lena Ferguson** (also secretary to the Mayor of Southampton) and Chairman **A E (Bill) Rawlings** taking up the same posts on the Hampshire Committee.

The STTA committee organised several fund raising events including a dance as well as hosting a Women's International England v France along with the Local and the Open Tournament.

In the STTA Closed Championships last years runner up **W L Muller** became the new **Mens Singles Champion** and there was also a new **Ladies Singles** winner **Miss E McBryde**.

Muller and his great rival **C R Whitren** won the **Mens Doubles** and he also won the **Mixed Doubles** with **Mrs E Pyatt**. **Mrs C Whitren** and **Miss McBryde** won the **Ladies Doubles**.

In the League **Civil Service A** were the new Division 1 champions ahead of last years winners Charondon. **Movement Control** (Royal Engineers) won Division 2 and **Pirelli B** won Division 3.

C R Whitren, L W Muller and R Sherry were the last winners of the **Southern Counties League**.

1947/48

This season marked the most successful **Open Tournament** with an entry of 135 in the mens singles including world champions **Richard Bergman, Victor Barna** and the up and coming **Johnny Leach**. The final was a 19/21, 21/18, 21/13 win for Bergman over Barna.

Southampton were the first winners of both the mens and ladies divisions of the new Hampshire Association.

Division 1 was yet again won by **Civil Service A**, **Division 2** winners were **Cunliffe Owen Aircraft** and Sports Association A, with **Connaught Hall** (University College) winning **Division 3**

In the Southampton Closed **L W Muller** retained the **Men's Singles**. **Mrs Cordie Whitren** not only won the **Ladies Singles**, but also the **Ladies Doubles** with **Miss B Hewlett** and the **Mixed Doubles** with **J Welch**. The **Junior Singles** was played for the first time and the winner was **Billy Draper**.

1948 / 49

There was a big increase in players to 410 for this season with four mens divisions and the reintroduction of the Womens League. A friendly match against a Czechoslovakia team including B Vana was played as well as a South England v USA match. Current world champion **Johnny Leach** was in the England team and England Open Champions **Marty Riseman** and **Peggy Maclean** were in the USA team.

The first Hampshire Open was staged in Southampton attracting 222 entries in the Mens Singles and 77 in the Womens Singles. The Mens was won by Southampton's **W L Muller**.

Division 1 for the third year running was won by Civil Service A, Division 2 winners were Southern Railway Institute A, Division 3 Albion , Division 4 South Stoneham House and the Ladies Division winners were Civil service.

Written and researched by Colin French, STTA Secretary, 2021

Acknowledgements:

A History of the Association compiled by David Cosway and Chris Sims – Golden Jubilee Handbook 1982

Southern Evening Echo Archives

Memorabilia from Brian Lamerton

Original STTA Minute Book 1932, press cuttings, programmes etc handed down from previous secretaries.