

THE  
**TABLE TENNIS**

AND  
**PASTIMES PIONEER**

A SPECIAL EDITION FOR THE SLOUGH, WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD AREA

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## TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT AT THE PUBLIC HALL

“Ping Pong” is all the rage just now. Members of Parliament, to say nothing of humble Councillors and Guardians, indulge in the new pastime, and find no end of delight and excitement in manipulating their bats and celluloid balls. In fact, no home is completely furnished unless it is provided with a table tennis outfit, and it is therefore no matter for surprise that 51 entries - 10 ladies and 41 gentlemen - were received for the tournament arranged by the Leopold Institute Table Tennis Club at the Public Hall on Monday evening. The idea of such a tournament originated with Mr. J. Andrews, who was one of the prime movers in the formation of the Institute Club, and under his able management the novel competition proved such a great success that another similar one may confidently be anticipated. The only fault that could be urged against that of Monday evening was the length of time occupied in arriving at the section winners, but on another occasion it is suggested to obviate this by having six tables instead of four, and deciding the ladies' competitions in the afternoon, so as to give the gentlemen the use of all the tables in the evening. The committee who assisted Mr. Andrews were Messrs. E. Weaver-Adams, C. Godfrey, G.F. Gibbs and I.A. Howell, with Mr. G. Young as secretary. The proceeds are to be devoted towards purchasing new books for the library of the Institute, and it is therefore particularly gratifying to be able to state that there was a satisfactory attendance, and that the experiment was successful not only from a competitive but also from a financial point of view. This was due in great measure to the generosity of Messrs. C. West, C. Godfrey, C. Rohde, J. Andrews and H. Porter, who contributed to the Prize Fund, and the kindness of Mr. G.P. Fisher and Mr. J. Andrews in saving expense by lending tables. There were four tables in all, the other two being the property of the Institute Club. One was devoted to the



### LADIES' COMPETITION,

in which the section winners were: A - Miss A.L. Butt 1, Miss F. Cantwell 2. B - Miss C.M. Butt 1, Miss Kirk 2. The final was won by Miss A.L. Butt, who was successful in every game, and secured a silver backed brush. Miss C.M. Butt obtained second prize - a crocodile-skin chatelaine bag - with 2 wins, and Miss F. Cantwell was third with 1 win, the third award being a silver button-hook. In the

### GENTLEMEN'S COMPETITION

the section winners were as follows: C - Mr. H. Page (Eton), D - Mr. R.C. Turner (Langley), E - Mr. E.W. Headington (Slough), F - Mr. G.P. Hammond (Slough), G - Mr. J.D. Wells (Slough), H - Mr. H.W.T. Blanchett (Slough), I - Mr. J. Gregory (Cippenham), K - Mr. R. Hallam (Slough).

The final resulted in a popular win for Mr. Bert Blanchett, of Slough, who did not meet with a singles defeat all the evening, and in eleven wins secured no fewer than 220 points against 122 obtained by his opponents. His prize was a silver cigarette case. Mr. R.C. Turner, of Langley, took second place, a vinegar and oil cruet, winning 10 games, and Mr. J.D. Wells, of Slough, who won 7, secured third award, a pearl handled knife. Two first and two third prizes were obtained by competitors using racquets manufactured by Mr. J. Andrews, of Slough.

The membership of the Leopold Institute Table Tennis Club has so increased that arrangements are being made to erect a second table in another room. This will enable ladies to have the sole use of the one in the Library on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

SWE Observer : 15th February 1902

**THE FUTURE OF "PING-PONG".**- "of all modern games, Table Tennis - or Ping-Pong, as at is at present more generally called - holds a unique record as regards the rapidity with which it has passed from the regions of the unknown to its present place as a fashionable pastime. Whilst the game was undoubtedly introduced in a crude form several years ago, it was not played to any extent till July or August of last year, yet by Christmas it had caused a perfect *furore*, and no upper or middle class social function was considered complete with its Ping-Pong table. Yet, wonderful though this rapid development is, its cause is not far to seek; the game unquestionably fills a long-felt want which the various indoor pastimes previously introduced had failed to do. Demanding, as it does, quickness of eye and hand; furnishing splendid exercise, keen interest, and real enjoyment; being inexpensive and easy to arrange for - it appeals alike

to the middle-aged and the young of both sexes, and is equally popular in the enthusiastic club-room or the more *dilettante* atmosphere of the drawing-room. The features of the game that have contributed so materially to its popularity would also seem to furnish a reasonable ground for the belief that, far from being a mere passing craze, table tennis has "come to stay", and be said to have already taken its place as the indoor branch of lawn tennis. A word with regard to the actual name of the game. Whilst in has undoubtedly attained its present popularity under the onomatopoeic title of Ping-Pong, its more enthusiastic and serious devotees object to the somewhat frivolous suggestion which this name conveys, preferring to style the game Table Tennis, and there seems little doubt that under this latter title it will live in the long run. - *The Windsor magazine*.

W&E Express : 19th October 1901



"This is my Ping-Pong hour."

**The above is the first known article about table tennis in the local press - although there is an advertisement from Herbert's Supply Stores Ltd., Eton who on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1901 had Ping-Pong sets for sale at 4s. and 6s. 6d.**

The new game lent itself well to humourous portrayal and many magazines took up the challenge, especially *Punch*, two of whose cartoons are depicted here. The one above may look like a cartoon of an anonymous player but it is in fact of C.B. Fry, one of the greatest English cricketers of his or any generation. Below is typical of the satirical approach and probably captured quite accurately the very beginning of table tennis as it was played in the home - note the frying pans for bats, and the DIY construction of the net assembly.

**PING PONG AT THE INSTITUTE** - The Committee of the Institute have purchased a new table, racquets, &tc., and a tournament open to players of both sexes in Slough and neighbourhood is to be held on Monday evening, February 10th. The proceeds will be devoted to the purchase of new books for the library. We understand that a Ping Pong, or table tennis, Club will be started almost immediately, and there is talk of an exhibition game taking place later on.

W&E Express : 25th January 1902.



**PING-PONG IN THE KITCHEN.**

**PING-PONG AT THE ALBERT INSTITUTE** - Among the numerous other attractions at the Royal Albert Institute, is a ping pong table, which has already been well patronised. A similar table has also been placed in the Ladies' Reading Room, which should be in constant use by the fair sex, who are so proficient at this fashionable game. If the craze continues at its present rate, we shall soon have applications to the magistrates for "extra hours" to keep open licensed premises for ping-pong club diners.

W&E Express : 11th January 1902

**PING PONG** or table tennis is just now all the rage, and it is therefore not surprising to hear that the Leopold Institute intend to add it to their list of attractions. At a committee meeting on Tuesday evening a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. E. Weaver Adams, J. Andrews, C. Godfrey, G.F. Gibbs and I.A. Howell, were appointed for the purpose of forming a club and also to arrange for a tournament to be open to the district. A full size regulation table and apparatus has been ordered, and will be erected in the library for the use of the club, which it is hoped will be the means of adding to the membership of the Institute, as the club will only be open to Institute members.

SWE Observer : 18th January 1902

**THE LEOPOLD INSTITUTE TABLE TENNIS CLUB** has commenced operations, and during the week Mr. W. Rich, of Slough, has erected a full size regulation table in the Library, which will be open for play during the ordinary hours of the Institute, with the exception of Wednesday and Saturday evenings (the Library nights) from six to nine. The subscription to the club, which is confined to members of the Institute, is two shillings quarterly or five shillings annually, and several ladies, as well as gentlemen, have already become members. The room is in every way adapted to the game, and in the day time the light from the glass roof is simply perfect. A tournament, open to the district, has been arranged for Monday evening, February 10th, the proceeds of which are to be devoted towards providing new books for the library of the Institute. There will be two classes, for ladies and gentlemen respectively, with three prizes in each class. The rules of the tournament provide service changes after every five points, and a change of ends after ten points. Any kind of racquet is permissible as long as the playing surface does not exceed 7 in. by 6 in. Entry forms and all particulars may be obtained from the Table Tennis Committee - Messrs. E. Weaver Adams, J. Andrews, G.F. Gibbs, C. Godfrey and I.A. Howell - or the Secretary of the Institute, Mr. G. Young.

SWE Observer : 25th January 1902

## Local Notes

"Ping Pong" is all the rage just now. Members of Parliament, to say nothing of humble Councillors and Guardians, indulge in the new parlour pastime and find no end of delight and excitement in manipulating their bats and celluloid balls. No parlour is completely furnished unless it is provided with a table-tennis outfit, and "ping-pong" is now a familiar sound as one passes some of the brilliantly-lit residencies abutting on our public streets and roads. The pastime provides healthful exercise, and from the fact that medical gentlemen enter into it with as much zest as other folk, it may be taken for granted that it is not without its advantages.

I have not heard that either the Town Council or the Board of Guardians have provided "ping-pong" sets for the use of members who desire to relieve the tedium of long sittings and uninteresting discussions. It would not, I take it, be a legal charge on the rates, and it would be necessary, therefore, for members to provide their own bats and balls. It would be extremely interesting to see our Councillors wending their way to the "usual monthly meeting" carrying a table-tennis bat and a supply of the indispensable white balls. The only danger likely to arise would be that members might, in the heat of the debate, use their bats to enforce their arguments, and this would never do. I see no reason, however, why the Mayor shouldn't challenge the Chairman of the Board of Guardians to a "ping-pong" tournament.

*Apropos* of "ping-pong", the following curious announcement has recently appeared in the shop windows of a West-End draper's establishment.

"Ping-pong tables, including the use of bats and balls, are now provided for customers in the toy department. Charges:- 3d. per game, or 6d. per rubber of three games. Special table reserved for children." This tradesman is enterprising, but he will not be likely to earn the thanks of the husband who is impatiently promenading the pavement outside while his wife is ostensibly "shopping", or the husband who is at home anxiously awaiting the arrival of his better-half to hand him a scone and brew him a cup of tea. In the interest of my own sex I implore Maidenhead drapers not to follow the example set by this West End establishment.

Maidenhead Advertiser : 12th February 1902

## The Jaques Society Set



This photograph is of the Jaques Society set, the highest priced at 42s. and most luxurious of the sets made by this most famous of manufacturers. The green battledores are best vellum and the posts are nicely turned wood on brass clamps. The strange-looking items formed of nets on the end of long posts are "ball pickers", important in their day so that ladies did not have to stoop in their multilayered evening gowns to pick up balls from the floor. The whole set was sold in a polished mahogany box that was adorned with brass fittings.

**ROYAL ALBERT INSTITUTE  
MEETING OF MEMBERS**

.... A new feature which has given great satisfaction has been the installation of a ping-pong table. It has been fully occupied every evening, and in a very short time paid for itself. A most successful and brilliant tournament has shown that members take a lively interest in the game. Finding the table in the Recreation Room so much appreciated, and that some ladies were anxious to use it, the Committee have set up a table in the Ladies Room.

W&E Express : 1st February 1902

A team of six players from the High Wycombe Ping Pong Club recently met a team from Marlow, with the result that each side won 18 games; the winners having ultimately to be decided by points - of which Marlow scored 781 as against High Wycombe's 755. The winning team consisted entirely of gentlemen, among whom are noted Mr. S. W. Wright, Mr. Rivers-Smith, and Mr. J. Laird, whilst Mrs. Richie, Miss Hodson, and Miss Allard were on the other side.

TT&PP : 15th February 1902

**Local Notes**

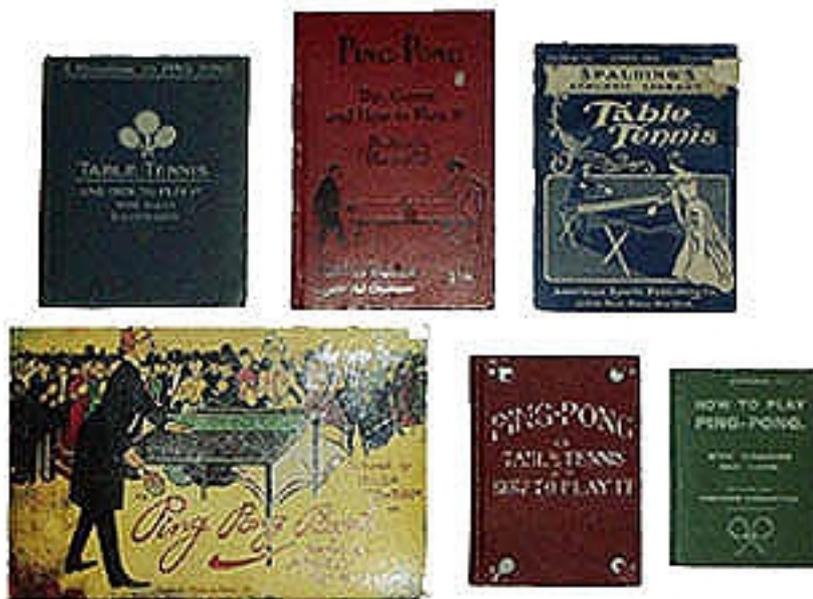
I referred in my notes of last week to the increasing popularity of the new game of "Ping-Pong". I have since learned that Mr. Percy Jones is contemplating - and probably by now arranging - a "Ping-Pong" tournament for a Saturday afternoon in the Town Hall. I also hear that a tournament is on the tapis for the benefit of the Mayor's Poor Box or the Cottage Hospital.

Maidenhead Advertiser : 19th February 1902

**PING-PONG.**- A five-a-side ping-pong American tournament was played on Monday evening at the Christopher Hotel, Eton, between representative teams of Slough and Eton. The home team proved victorious, after some very exciting games, by 39 points. Mr. H. Webb, of Eton, was in great form, winning all his games. The following were the teams: Eton - Messrs. A. Brown, B. Brown, H. Webb, Goodman and N.H. Page; Slough - Messrs. Turner, Langley, Wells, Kenyon and B. Blanchett.

W&E Express : 8th March 1902

# Table Tennis Books



Some books on the game published around 1902. Centre top is the English version of Parker's definitive book - there were three other US editions.

**PING PONG MATCH.**- A close and exciting ping pong match took place on Tuesday evening in the Albert Institute small hall, between members of the Albert Institute Ping Pong Club and members of the Windsor Constitutional Club. The teams were six a side, and the original intention was for each player to contest two games of 20 points against each of the opposing side, or twelve games in all. When it was seen, however, that all the 72 games could not be completed, it was decided to resolve the match on games played when time was called. Eventually 63 games were completed, and on the total points being computed, it was found that the Albert Institute were winners by the small margin of 16 points, the totals being, Albert Institute 1053, Constitutional Club 1037. For the losers H.B. Brown played an excellent game, scoring 218 points out of a possible 220, his opponents registering 137 points only, and for the home team E.K. Willett, with 208 points for and 136 against, was the most successful player. A large number of spectators witnessed the play, including a number of the fair sex, who took a keen interest in the various games. The teams were as follows: Constitutional Club - Messrs. A.W. Brown, H.B. Brown, S. Phillips, Mead, E. Boulton, and P.E. Headington. Albert Institute - E.K. Willett, S.E. Willett, H.L. Collmann, J.H. Webb, R. Radnor, and S.F. Oxley.

W&E Express : 1st March 1902

Royal Windsor Institute, Windsor

**AN OPEN  
PING-PONG TOURNAMENT**

will be held at the above Institute on  
Wednesday, March 12th, 1902

ENTRANCE FEE TWO SHILLINGS

Four prizes will be given

THE TOURNAMENT will be decided on the coursing system (i.e., every loser retires from further participation in the contest). The Ties will be decided on one game of 30 points

Play to commence at 6.30 p.m.

Entries to be made by post, with fee, to the Hon. Sec. for Entries, Albert Institute, Windsor, on or before Monday, March 10th.

Committee reserve right to refuse any entry  
Admission to the Hall (non players) One Shilling.

SWE Observer : 1st March 1902

*(This is an advertisement on the front cover of the newspaper)*

*On 8th March this advert was repeated but in response to several requests, the Committee had changed the entry fees to one shilling.*

*The Hon. Sec. for Entries was Mr. S.F. Oxley.*

# The Leopold Institute - where it all started in Slough



A view of Slough High Street, looking west, during the early part of the last century. The tall building on the north side of the street (with the clock mounted on its apex) is the Public Hall and Leopold Institute, premises of the first table tennis club formed in Slough and venue for the first tournament on 10th February 1902 (see front cover for a report on the tournament).

The Leopold Institute was opened in 1887 and named after Queen Victoria's youngest son, Prince Leopold. The land for the building was given by James Elliman, a huge benefactor to the town. The building survived until 1972 when it was demolished as part of the town centre redevelopment.

At that time Slough was not the busy industrious town that we know today. That only came about after 1920 when Slough Trading Company Ltd. (now Slough Estates plc) took over land and buildings affectionately known as "The Dump" - a War Office hospital for crippled motor vehicles returning from the Great War. In 1900 the area now occupied by Slough Estates was not even within the boundaries of Slough, but the separate village of Cippenham and was part of Cippenham Court Farm.

Slough had expanded in the second half of the nineteenth century following the arrival of Brunel's iron highway, the Great Western Railway, and prior to the branch line to Windsor being opened in 1849 had been the station that Queen Victoria used on her trips to her beloved Windsor Castle. In 1851 the population of Slough was only just over 1,500 but by 1900 this had risen to over 11,000, a long way short of today's 100,000.

Slough Urban District had come into being only a few years earlier, in 1894, and was then further expanded in 1900 by the addition of some areas within Stoke Poges Parish, Upton cum Chalvey and part of Langley Marsh. Not until the thirties did Slough become, geographically, more like the area we know today.

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## A PING-PONG TOURNAMENT FOR MAIDENHEAD

On Friday evening last a largely-attended meeting of persons interested in the new game of ping-pong was held in the Council Chamber. The Mayor (Mr. W.F. Good) was in the Chair. The meeting had been called for the purpose of arranging a ping-pong tournament in aid of the Mayor's Poor Box. It was unanimously decided to hold a tournament in the Town Hall at a date to be shortly arranged. Mr. E. Blumfield, High-street, has been chosen secretary, and the Mayor chairman. It is hoped that the Ladies' Ping-Pong Club in Maidenhead will arrange a tournament for the afternoon, to be followed by the open tournament. The following gentlemen were elected onto the committee:- Chairman, Mr. W.F. Good (Mayor), and Messrs. Braxton, Baylis, Bryant, Brooking, Beal, Cope, Charman, Faulkner, Farndon, O. Gilroy, Lever, Mackie, Owens, Spindler, Silver, Woodward, E. Blumfield (hon. Sec.) and J. Burnham (treasurer). Gentlemen wishing to take part in the tournament will kindly forward their names to the hon. sec. 78, High-street or to the hon. treas., Burnham's Library, High-street. Entrance fee, 1s., including admission to the hall.

Maidenhead Advertiser : 12th March 1902

THE

# TABLE TENNIS

AND

# PASTIMES PIONEER.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL FOR TABLE TENNIS AND PING PONG PLAYERS.

No. 1. VOL. I.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1902.

ONE PENNY.

### VENI, VIDI, VICI.

TO-DAY the game which is a "first fruit" of the new century, and now counts its tens of thousands of votaries among high and low in every clime, enters upon the new but important phase of journalistic representation. Young, but of sturdy growth, as we trust we shall prove, it will be our one aim, by providing a platform for the discussion of matters of general interest, and by the publication of the latest news and comments from all parts of the world, to advance the best interests of a popular game, and to secure for it its rightful place among those international sports which have so great a bearing upon the building up of Great Empires. With this end in view we invite the hearty co-operation of club secretaries, sports committees, and unattached players, as well as onlookers; to whom we look for support not only in extending the circle of our readers, but in giving us the earliest possible intimation of impending events, and in taking advantage of the unfettered platform offered by our correspondence columns, to which a limited amount of space will be allotted.

### Personal.

In the short time at our disposal (our venture was first suggested less than a fortnight ago!) we have been unable to secure all that we could have wished in the way of photographs. We are, however, indebted to the courtesy of a few of our many well-wishers for ready response to the call, and are promised many others, which we trust will be in time for our next issue.

*Photos of events connected with the game will always be appreciated.*



W. H. GRENFELL, ESQ., M.P.

PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH WYCOMBE TABLE TENNIS CLUB.

The name of Mr. W. H. Grenfell, M.P. for South Bucks, has been so long and intimately connected with sporting of the highest type, that it is scarcely surprising that some of the "ping pongists" of his constituency should have sought his presidency.



MISS CONSTANCE BANTOCK: 'PING PONG' CHAMPION.

The accompanying photo shows the fortunate winner of the first prize at the recent Queen's Hall Ping Pong Tournament, and accompanied by a favourite Scotch terrier, who is also a prize winner among his "doggy" friends. Miss Bantock is the daughter of a well-known West End doctor, some of whose sons have already earned considerable distinction at home and abroad. Besides the great event, Miss Bantock has secured several minor prizes at friendly tournaments and at the Royal Aquarium, thus showing remarkable skill in a game which we understand she first played in the summer of 1901.

"Ping pong" is making huge strides. It has already "championships" and two rival "associations." There is also a serious discussion whether it should not be called "tick tack," many holding that these words are more truly descriptive of the sound made by the ball on the racket than "ping pong." Perhaps if it were called "ting pock" or "pick tong" a compromise that would satisfy the contending parties might be arrived at.

The Harrowgate Ping Pong Club are desirous of arranging matches with any recognised organisation in Yorkshire; teams to consist of any number of players from ten to twenty-four.

### Coming Events.

- Jan. 18th.—Tournament at Royal Victoria Station Hotel, Sheffield.
- Jan. 20th.—Tournament at Loughborough Hotel, Brixton. £50 in prizes.
- Jan. 27th.—Second Ping Pong Tournament at Queen's Hall.
- Jan. 29th.—Tournament at Grimsby Town in aid of local hospital.
- Feb 3rd.—Table Tennis Tournament, Royal Aquarium.
- Feb 13th—16th.—Open Tournament for North London Championships, Alexandra Palace.
- March — Table Tennis Tournament, Championship of Borough of Ealing.
- July 7th.—Tournament at Hurlingham.

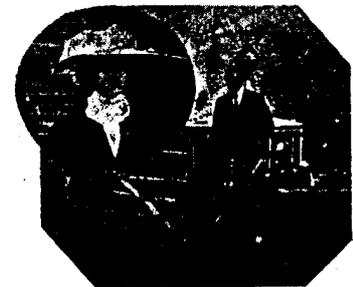
*Dates are to be fixed for the following:—*

- L.C.C. Tournament.
- New Century v. Primrose.
- Royal Aquarium Handicap.
- Baltham T. T. Club Tournament.
- St. Bartholomew's Church, Brighton. Charity Tournament.
- Crystal Palace T. T. Club. Members' Tournament.

The Welcome Club tournament, at the Alexandra Palace, on the 11th inst., resulted in a victory for Mr. Davenport, who secured a magnificent "ping pong" set as first prize, besides the challenge cup which has, however, to be won for three successive years to entitle to possession. Aluminium racquets were used in the finals.

The children's fancy dress ball would have been incomplete indeed without an allusion to the all pervading—and prevailing—game, so that no one was surprised to see "ping pong" there in the flesh!!

Below we have pleasure in giving photographs in miniature of two members of committee of the New Century Ping Pong Club, which has already secured a membership of forty-four enthusiasts, among whom, we think, we may venture to number Mr. Bergl, the president of the club. The affairs are in the hands of a secretary and treasurer, assisted by a committee of nine.



MISS DAISY BANKS AND MR. E. DUNKLEY, OF THE NEW CENTURY PING PONG CLUB.

The original "Table Tennis and Pastimes Pioneer". This publication lasted only nine issues, weekly from 18th January to 15th March 1902 and must have been the World's first table tennis magazine. The only surviving original copy is in the British Museum. Above is reproduced the front cover of the first issue from the photocopy in the author's collection. Note the photograph bottom left of W.H. Grenfell, Esq., M.P., the President of the High Wycombe Table Tennis Club. Mr. Grenfell lived at Taplow Court and represented South Buckinghamshire constituency, which, in 1902, included Slough.

## PING-PONG

The shades of night were falling fast,  
As from a toy-bazaar there pass'd  
A youth, who bore, the crowd amid,  
A box, with this upon the lid,

"Ping-Pong".

A smile stood in his bright blue eyes,  
And many people wondered why;  
But when they saw his parcel, they  
Would stop and warn him not to play

Ping-Pong.

"Try not the game", an old man said,  
"Play draughts or tiddlywinks instead,  
Avoid it, sir, while yet you can!"  
He said, "Go to! you ancient man,

"Ping-Pong".

"O, stay!" a maiden said, "I bid"  
('Twas wrong of her, but yet she did),  
"And throw that dreadful game away",  
He said, "My dear, excuse me, pray,

"Ping-Pong".

"You'll find it, sir, no harmless joke"  
(A clergyman it was who spoke),  
"Oh shun this too seductive game!"  
But still he answered just the same,

"Ping-Pong".

In happy homes he saw the light  
Of househouse fires, gleam warm and bright,  
In each a twangling noise he heard,  
And from his lips escaped the word -

"Ping-Pong".

He reached his home and started play,  
And with his household night and day  
Competed 'till he soon became  
A mighty champion at the game

Ping-Pong.

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The High Wycombe Ping Pong Club championship was played on Fridays, February 14th and 21st, at the Auction Mart, resulting in follows:- 1, Mr. A. Haddock, 379 points, highest possible 380; 2, Mr. Allard, 376; 3, Mr. Padgett 370; 4, Mr. H. Rafferty, 369; 5, Mrs. Padgett, 357; 6, Mrs. Ritchie, 344; 7, Miss Hodson and Mr. C. Skull, 337; 8, Miss Allard, 331; 9, Miss Skull, 329; ten others competed. The committee have decided to keep open during March at the request of members.

TT&PP 15th March 1902

He beat his fond, but stout mamma,  
He beat his adipose papa,  
His sister Jane and brother Pat,  
He readily defeated at

Ping-Pong.

He beat them all, no matter who,  
His cousins, aunts, and uncle too;  
And when they then the game forsook,  
He taught the parlourmaid and cook

Ping-Pong.

He never drank, he never fed,  
He never even went to bed!  
In consequence at last he died,  
And with his fleeting breath he cried

"Ping-Pong".

A dozen jurymen came round,  
And on the spot their verdict found;  
Which wasn't difficult, because  
They saw immediately it was

Ping-Pong.

And to his funeral there came  
All pinger pongers known to fame;  
And as they laid him in the mould  
"The bell, instead of "ding-dong", tolled

"Ping-Pong".

- "Transvaal Advertiser".

S WE Observer : 1st March 1902

The above is typical of many poems written about table tennis around 1902. In the USA there was even a competition following which the best examples submitted were published in a book.

Enthusiasts in Wycombe and the neighbouring towns will next week have an opportunity hitherto denied them. An open tournament is to be held at the Town hall, on Saturday, March 22nd. The tournament is being organized by the High Wycombe Ping Pong Club, and will be open to all comers. There will be tournaments for both ladies and gentlemen. Play will take place in the afternoon and evening, and an effort will be made to play off the finals in time to catch the last up and down trains. Entrance fee will be 2s. 6d., admission to witness tournament sixpence. Entries should be sent to the Club Secretary, Mr. F.J. Padgett.

TT&PP 15th March 1902

## LAWS OF PING-PONG

1.-The game is for two players. They shall stand one at each end of the table. The player who first delivers the ball shall be called the server, and the other the striker-out.

2.-The server shall stand behind the end and within the limits of the width of the table.

3.-The service shall be strictly underhand, and from behind the table; that is to say, at the time of striking the ball the racket may not be over the table, and no part of the racket, except the handle, may be above the waist.

4.-The ball served must drop on the table-top beyond the net, and is then in play. If it drops into the net or off the table it is called a "fault," and counts to the striker-out.

5.-There is no second service, *except* when the ball touches the net or posts in passing over and *drops on the table, beyond the net*, when it is called "a let," and another service is allowed.

6.-If the ball in play strike any object above or around the table before it drops on the table (net or posts excepted), it counts against the striker.

7.-The server wins a stroke if the striker-out fails to return the service, or the ball in play.

8.-The striker-out wins a stroke if the server serve a "fault," or fails to return the ball in play so that it falls off the table.

9.-No volleying is allowed, whether intentional or otherwise, and if any ball shall be touched before striking the table it counts against the player touching it; should, however, a ball pass the limits of the table without dropping on it is dead, and counts against the striker.

### Scoring.

The method of scoring shall be by points, 20 points up constituting a game, the service changing after each five points scored. Should the score reach 19 all, it shall be called "game all," and the best of 5 points shall decide the game.

Ping-Pong : The Game and How to Play It by  
Arnold Parker 1902

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**PING-PONG TOURNAMENT AT WYCOMBE.** - Particulars are advertised of an open ping-pong tournament at the Town Hall, High Wycombe, on Saturday, March 22nd. Entries close on Thursday.

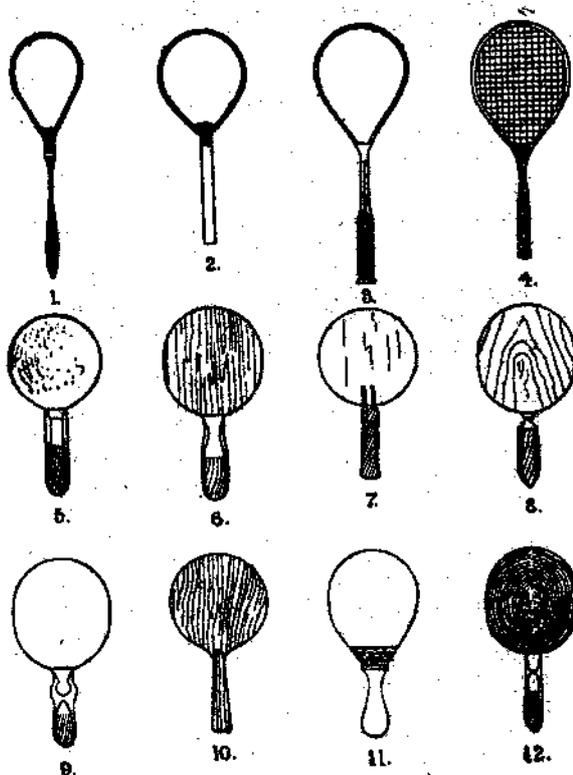
A PING-PONG TOURNAMENT will be held at the Saracen's Head tonight (Wednesday).

Maidenhead Advertiser : 19th March 1902

# A Collection of Period Rackets



Above are pictured various rackets that form part of the author's collection - (1) an early solid wood bat, possibly home-made; (2) an early "combination" bat, the pictured side being covered in pimpled rubber, the other side vellum; (3) an example of a gut-strung racket fashioned like a miniature tennis racket; (4) a Jaques Ping-Pong cork-faced racket; (5) a wooden bat covered in vellum; (6) an ornate vellum battledore; (7) a beautiful and typical Jaques Ping-Pong best vellum battledore; (8) a solid mahogany racket.



How To Play Ping-Pong by the Hon. Sec. Ping-Pong Association 1902

*The Racket.*-Ping-Pong rackets appear to be made of every imaginable substance and of any size and shape. The Table Tennis Association, however, limit the size to six inches by seven, although the Ping-Pong Association do not. Some are almost square, others quite round, others, again, pear-shaped. The length of the handle varies in nearly every one; in some it is nearly a foot long, in others it has practically disappeared, and some of them have a large bulb instead of the ordinary handle.

*The Vellum Racket.*-The vellum racket consists of vellum stretched over a wooden or metal frame. There are several kinds of racket on the market. In the old-fashioned vellum racket the wooden frame was very thick, and the vellum not particularly tightly stretched. With the improvement in the playing of Ping-Pong the vellum had to be tightly and evenly stretched, and the tendency has been for the rim of the racket to become much narrower. The quality of the vellum used in making Ping-Pong rackets has perceptibly increased, and sometimes it is almost as thin as paper, with a great amount of elasticity.

*The Parchment Racket.*-The parchment racket is practically never seen nowadays; it is merely the old battledore; but as parchment alters so considerably under atmospheric influences, it has been found necessary to give it up. The imitation parchment, as it is called, is merely paper treated with sulphuric acid.

*Wooden Rackets.*-There are many kinds of wooden rackets on the market; some of them are made of hard wood, such as ebony, oak or mahogany. Others again are made of pine or some other soft wood. The hard wood rackets are, as a rule, very thin. This is necessary on account of the great weight they would otherwise be.

*Covered Wood Rackets.*-Some wooden rackets have parchment or vellum glued on the surface; others, again, have emery paper or sandpaper, or glass paper - all with the object of imparting a greater screw to the ball. There are also rackets on the market covered with cloth; and there is one make covered with an indiarubber pad, very similar to those one sees on many cash-desks.

*Cork.*-many players think a cork racket is the only thing to be played with. The ball comes away with a very great spin, and, in their opinion, all the objections to the wooden racket are overcome.

*Gut.*-A gut racket looks like a miniature tennis racket. It is very tightly-strung with very fine gut. All players I have seen using it seem to be quite novices. They are unable to control the ball in any way.

Ping-Pong : The Game and How to Play It  
by Arnold Parker 1902

## “PING-PONG” TOURNAMENT

The large hall at the Albert Institute on Wednesday was the resort of a considerable number of players of, and others interested in, the game of “Ping-Pong”, or table tennis to give it its saner sounding title, the occasion being an open tournament promoted principally by the Committee of the Albert Institute Ping-Pong Club. The tournament was, we believe, the first “open” event of the kind held in the district, and the entrants, in addition to those from Windsor and Eton, included players from Slough and Maidenhead, while two ladies gallantly entered the lists to try their skill at this “girls’ game” as it is called by those who decry it, against members of the sterner sex. Forty-three entries were received in all, and in view of the rather excessive time required to play a tournament on the American system, which is the one usually adopted, the Committee decided to try, as an experiment, the method usually pursued for lawn tennis tournaments, billiard handicaps, and similar contests. So far as the merits of the two systems are concerned, opinion among the players at the end of the evening appeared to be divided, but at any rate the system resulted in a very exciting contest. Play commenced at half-past six, and among the early games, we noticed that both the lady players had to yield to the superior skill of their antagonists. The most exciting game in the first and second rounds was that between J.H. Webb (the ultimate winner) and R. Radnor, both playing in excellent form, but as has been the case in the final of the Albert Institute Handicap a couple of evenings before, the former’s steadiness obtained the mastery over the more brilliant and forcing play of his opponent. In the third round a good game was seen between the brothers Willett, the younger eventually proving the better, while E. Boulton disposed of J. Wells’ chance by sound steady play. The feature of the fourth round was a protracted game between two “stonewallers” in S.E. Willett and H.W. Blanchett, winner of the recent Slough tournament, the latter proving victorious by 30 points to 28, while three points only proved the margin in favour of Webb, after a fast and interesting game against H.B. Brown. The semi-finals found H.L. Collmann, G. Wickes, H.W. Blanchett, and J.H. Webb the competitors left to decide the destination of the honours and prizes, the results in this and the final round being decided by the best of two games, of 20 points, out of three. The tie between Wickes and Collmann produced some fast play, and the former proved his superiority by winning the first two games, but the difference between Blanchett and Webb was

not so easily settled. The first game fell to Blanchett by one point after the score had been called 19 all, but by steady play and determination Webb carried off the next two, winning the tie. The final between Webb and Wickes proved very exciting, and once again the steady and sure style of the former proved too safe for the more varied strokes and forcing game adopted by his opponent. The spectators throughout the evening watched the games with great interest, and the points of the play, especially as the competition approached its final and more exciting stages, were keenly appreciated, the applause being both frequent and spontaneous. At the conclusion of the final, the winners’ names were announced by Mr. G.P. Cartland, who had kept the scoring register in a most excellent and accurate manner, and the prizes were presented amid loud applause to the successful competitors by Mrs. J. Radnor. The following is a summary of the play:-

### FIRST ROUND.

E. Boulton beat V. Atkins.  
H.B. Kenyon, w.o. E. Spindler (scr.)  
A.J. Duncan, w.o. R. Liebert (scr.)  
F. Langley beat H. Halliday.  
A.G. Cooper beat P.J. Odell.  
G.B. Wickes beat E.W. Fuggle.  
E.K. Willett beat Miss Durnford.  
A.W. Brown beat C. Blumfield.  
O. Gilroy beat Miss Fleming.  
S.E. Willett beat T. Page.  
H. Meade beat E. Cazalet.

In addition 21 drew byes.

### SECOND ROUND.

E.V. Miles beat B. Rose.  
N.H. Page beat S.F. Oxley.  
E. Cope beat J. Lingwood.  
H. Collmann beat G. Barclay.  
J.D. Wells beat H.J. Hetherington.  
E. Boulton, w.o. H. Kenyon (scr.)  
F. Langley, w.o. A.J. Duncan (scr.)  
G. Wickes beat A.G. Cooper.  
E.K. Willett beat A.W. Brown.  
S.E. Willett beat O. Gilroy.  
H. Meade beat S. Holderness.  
H.W. Blanchett beat H. Gamble.  
G. Carleton beat A.R. Silver.  
J.H. Webb beat R. Radnor.  
H.B. Brown beat C. Durrant.  
H. Lingwood beat L. Selfe.

### THIRD ROUND.

N.H. Page beat E.V. Miles.  
H. Collmann beat E. Cope.  
E. Boulton beat J. Wells.  
G. Wickes beat F. Langley.  
S.E. Willett beat E.K. Willett.  
H. Blanchett beat H. Meade.  
J.H. Webb beat G. Carleton.  
H.W. Brown beat H. Lingwood.

### FOURTH ROUND.

H. Collmann beat N. Page.  
G. Wickes beat E. Boulton.  
H.W. Blanchett beat S.E. Willett.  
J.H. Webb beat H.B. Brown.

### SEMI-FINAL ROUND.

G. Wickes beat H. Collmann.  
J.H. Webb beat H.W. Blanchett.

### FINAL.

J.H. Webb beat G. Wickes.

W&E Express : 15th March 1902

## TTPP list of clubs 15.3.02

Each week for its nine issues “Table Tennis and Pastimes Pioneer” listed an ever increasing number of clubs from around the country. None of the clubs from Slough, Windsor or Maidenhead, featured in this publication ever appeared, but the listing for 15th March 1902 did include the following:

Bray Badminton and Ping Pong Club,  
Bray.  
High Wycombe Ping Pong Club.  
F.J. Padgett, hon. sec.

## The Game's Place in Social History



Table Tennis, or Ping-Pong, was so popular in the period from 1902 to 1904 that it became part of the changing social history. The game was depicted everywhere as it took its hold on society. Incredibly, in 1902 there were numerous pieces of music written which included “Ping-Pong” in their title, and all manner of other articles, such as this vesta (match) case showed table tennis scenes.

# A Collection of Picture Postcards

The early 1900s are often described as the halcyon days for the picture postcard and they were then a new and important means of communication, prior to the days of (mass) motor transport, telecommunications (and the internet!). Many greetings cards depicted table tennis scenes, mainly in a humorous vein. The early cards had little room for the sender to write much as one side of the card was required to be used for the address only, therefore any message had to be written on the same side as the illustration. Only from later in 1902 was the divided back permitted, thus allowing messages to be written in the now familiar space.



During the period 1901 to 1905 alone about 100 cards were produced, mostly but not exclusively British.

The first cards were a set of twelve from the publisher Galyon. The quality of the card used was nothing special and the black ink line drawings were often hand coloured. These were party invitation cards typically carrying a message such as "We are having Ping-Pong on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_ o'clock. Do join us". The sender was required to fill in the gaps.

More numerous were the Raphael Tuck "write away" cards, beautifully drawn and coloured by Lance Thackeray and chromographed in Saxony.

William Lyon produced the Premier 1975 series of six cards of comic scenes annotated by quotations from Shakespeare and the same publisher produced coloured line drawings depicting players in evening dress in the Premier 2020 series. Raphael Tuck, the most respected of postcard publishers at the time, also produced a series entitled "Ping Pong in Fairyland" depicting elves playing table tennis on toadstool tables with cobweb nets and leaves for bats. Gordon Browne drew a series of four cards for John Walker while E. Wrench published two cartoons from the satirical magazine "Punch". There are also cards from South Africa depicting native (and topless) women playing on rickety tables, and many single cards from various publishers including a Christmas card drawn by the famous cat artist Louis Wain.



## From top to bottom:

1. One of the first table tennis postcards ever produced - a party invitation card from the Galyon series;
2. One of the beautiful cards drawn by Lance Thackeray for publishers Raphael Tuck;
3. Another Tuck series of six cards featuring fairies playing on toadstools with nets formed by cobweb. These were overprinted with various messages - this one is "A Happy Birthday";
4. Is this an early coaching scheme for the very young depicted on this "Shakespeare" card from William Lyon's Premier 1975 series?

## PING-PONG AT MAIDENHEAD

### TOURNAMENT AT THE TOWN HALL

With a view to giving the local public an opportunity of making acquaintance with the game of ping-pong, or table tennis, and also with the object of benefiting the funds of the Mayor's Poor Box, local enthusiasts of the game arranged for an open tournament in the Town Hall, Maidenhead, on Thursday last. The preliminary arrangements were made and well-carried out by a good committee, the chairman of which was the Mayor (Mr. Councillor W. F. Good). The secretary was Mr. Ernest Blumfield, of High-street, and a better man for the position could not have been found. He took a very keen interest in the venture and worked hard for its success. For the tournament in question, three tables were erected in the hall, and were separated by seats for the accommodation of the public. The majority of the competitors hailed from Maidenhead, but several came from Windsor and Wycombe, where the game is largely played. Two open tournaments had been arranged, viz., a ladies' section in the afternoon and a gentlemen's in the evening. There were 13 entries for the competition for the fair sex and the large number of 70 for the gentlemen's in the evening. The afternoon's play did not attract a large audience, but nearly all the ladies who had entered put in an appearance and played their games. The contest was viewed by, amongst others, the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. Councillor W. F. Good and Mrs. Good), who evinced a keen interest in the game. In the semi-final, Mrs. Parker and Miss Humphrey were drawn together, whilst Mrs. Padgett (of High Wycombe) drew a bye. A good exhibition was given by the two first-named, victory being secured by Miss Humphrey who beat Mrs. Parker by 30 points to 15. In the final, Miss Humphrey beat Mrs. Padgett, after a close and spirited game, by 30 points to 24. Both were applauded for their exhibition at the close. Other ladies who took part were: Miss Stonehill, Miss Florrie Arnold, Miss Mash, Miss Murray, and Miss Hewitt. The umpire for the semi-final and final was Mr. G. Bryant. The prize, a leather hand-bag, was afterwards presented to Miss Humphrey by the Mayoress.

At 6.30, a large audience gathered to witness the gentlemen play, and those present included a large number of ladies. Owing to the heavy entry, it was necessary to play off a number of rounds, many of which furnished some close games. Only a very few

of those who had entered failed to put in an appearance. The semi-finals resulted as follows: 1st round, J.W. Webb beat H.P. Glass; Parker beat E. Cope; Bryant beat Humphrey; J. Padgett beat P. Telling. 2nd round, Bryant beat Telling and J.W. Webb beat Parker. The semi-finals produced play of a high order, and they were watched with close attention by all present. During an interval, a match was played between the Mayor and Mr. A.H. Brooking, and his Worship had to acknowledge defeat by 20 points to 12. For the third prize, Telling and Parker had to play off, and a good contest ended in a win for Parker, who throughout the competition played consistently well. The final took place on the top-table near the stage, and the players – Messrs. Bryant and Webb – were surrounded by an interested crowd. Mr. Percy Johns was the umpire. The final proved very exciting. Both players were repeatedly applauded for their good service and volleys. Webb, who hails from Windsor, proved too good for Bryant. Throughout he played very steadily and put in some smashing returns, which somewhat bewildered his opponent (Bryant). Webb finally secured first prize by the good margin of 30 points to 7. Both players were warmly applauded at the finish of the game. It had been arranged for the winner of the ladies' tournament to play an exhibition game with the winner of the gentlemen's tournament, but it was nearly eleven and Miss Humphrey had left. The prizes – all useful articles – were handed to the winners by the Mayoress, who was heartily thanked for her kindness, on the proposition of Mr. H.A. Faulkner. The Mayor, in acknowledgement, congratulated the promoters of the tournament, and expressed his pleasure at seeing so many present. He added a word of congratulation to Mr. Webb, of Windsor, on having secured first prize, and said that if Maidenhead players visited Windsor, he hoped they might prove successful. During the evening, Mr. J. Waugh Owens rendered some skilfully-played pianoforte selections, and Mr. W. Elliott Barrett, at short notice, sang in excellent style "The Bedonin Love Song" and "The Gauntlet", for which he received loud applause. Mr. J.H. Manlove, too, gave a capital rendering of the song "Lucky Jim". Between the semi-finals and final, the audience were favoured with a real treat – a recitation by Mr. Horace Nelson, of Bray, entitled, "The progress of madness", by C.M. Lewis (slightly modified). Mr. Nelson possesses exceptional elocutionary power. He has a strong and powerful voice, whilst his histrionic ability is of high order. His recitation, which was given with much dramatic power, was the "tit-bit" of the evening, and Mr. Nelson left

the stage amid enthusiastic applause from a large company.

The officials were: Umpires, Messrs. E.J. Spindler, E. Cope, A.E. Farndon, A.R. Silver, G. Bryant, P. Telling, E. Blumfield, W.E. Mackie, E. Beal, P. Johns, and W.H. Reed. Competitors' Stewards: Messrs. A.E. Farndon and W. Baylis. Mr. J. Burnham rendered valuable assistance at the door and in other ways at both tournaments. He was assisted at the door by Mr. G.T. Braxton in the evening.

The Council Chamber was utilised as a refreshment-buffet, and was in the capable hands of Mr. Woodward, of "The Grapes", Market Street, who generously offered half of his profits in aid of the effort.

Ping-pong tables were kindly lent by Mr. E. Arnold (Saracen's Head), Mr. C. Hyde (White Horse), and Messrs. J. Barley and E. Spindler.

Maidenhead Advertiser : 9th April 1902

**THE MAYOR'S POOR BOX.** – This fund has been augmented by the sum of £6 7s. 7d., the proceeds of a ping-pong tournament recently held in the Town Hall. We are asked by the Mayor to very heartily thank the promoters of the tournament and all those ladies and gentlemen who, in the interest of the poor-box, associated themselves with the movement.

**THE RECENT PING-PONG TOURNAMENT.** – On Friday evening last, a meeting of the committee who arranged the Ping-Pong tournament in aid of the Mayor's Poor Box was held in the Council Chamber, when a statement of the accounts was presented. As a result of the effort the Mayor was handed over the very satisfactory sum of £6 7s. 7d. Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the Mayor as chairman of the committee, Mr. J. Burnham (hon. treasurer), and Mr. Ernest Blumfield (hon. sec.) for the good services rendered.

**PING-PONG TOURNAMENT.** – On Monday evening a very successful ping-pong tournament was held in the ping-pong room at the Saracen's Head Hotel. There was a good entry, and most of the leading players of the game in Maidenhead took part. Some of the preliminary rounds produced close games, and the tournament was eventually won by Mr. Cyril Durrant. Mr. Bryant won second prize, and Mr. E. Blumfield secured the third. The secretarial duties were in the hands of Mr. A.C. Silver.

Maidenhead Advertiser : 16th April 1902

## PING-PONG TOURNAMENT

In aid of the fund for the improvement of the Holy Trinity Parish Churchyard, ping-pong tournaments took place in the Parish Schools, Alma-road, on Friday evening, four prizes being offered for ladies and four for gentlemen. There was a fairly good attendance, and some spirited contests were witnessed. The Rev. F.R. Keightley and the Rev. A. Humphrey Townsend organised the tournaments, assisted by Mr. Joe Lingwood and Mr. R. Brodie. The following were the results:-

### LADIES.-First Round.

Miss Headington beat Mrs. Osmond.  
Miss Bois beat Miss D. Groome.  
Byes.- Misses D. Groome, Sylvia Lingwood, F. Brown, Hilda Lingwood, M. Loraine, Langridge, Turcher, Leigh, Hamilton, Mrs. P. Headington, Misses Paine, Allnutt, and Bailey.

### Second Round.

Miss Headington beat Miss Dora Bois.  
Miss D. Groome beat Miss S. Lingwood.  
Miss H. Lingwood beat Miss F. Brown.  
Miss Loraine beat Miss Langridge.  
Miss Lee beat Miss Turcher.  
Miss Hamilton beat Miss Loraine.  
Mrs. Headington beat Miss Paine.  
Miss Loraine (sub.) beat Miss Allnutt.

### Third Round.

Miss D. Groome beat Miss Headington.  
Miss H. Lingwood beat Miss Loraine.  
Miss Hamilton beat Miss Leigh.  
Mrs. Headington beat Miss Loraine.

### Semi-Final.

Miss H. Longwood beat Miss D. Groome.  
Mrs. Headington beat Miss Hamilton.

### Final.

Miss Hilda Lingwood beat Mrs. Headington.

### GENTLEMEN.-First Round.

Radnor beat Goodman.  
Webb beat Pounsford.  
H.J. Lingwood beat Miles (scr.).  
Boulton beat Meade.  
Cramp beat Selfe.  
Brazier beat Hill.  
E.K. Willett beat Rev. F.R. Keightley.  
H.B. Brown beat Joe Lingwood.

### Second Round.

Webb beat Radnor.  
Boulton beat H.J. Lingwood.  
Cramp beat Brazier.  
H.B. Brown beat E.K. Willett.

### Semi-Final.

Webb beat Boulton.  
H.B. Brown beat Cramp.

### Final.

Webb beat H.B. Brown.

The best game among the gentlemen was between Radnor and Webb, in the second round, it being most stubbornly contested, 29 all being called, Webb eventually winning by two points. In several other games some very pretty play was seen, most of the games being very even. In the ladies' contest, undoubtedly the best game was the final, which was most evenly fought throughout. On 25 all being called there was tremendous applause, and on 29 all being called the excitement was intense. On having to play best of 5, the game reached 2 all, Miss Hilda Lingwood eventually winning by one point, and both players were most heartily cheered. A very enjoyable evening was spent, and a wish was generally expressed that another tournament might be arranged. The tables, &tc., were kindly lent by Messrs. A.W. and H.B. Brown. The prizes were graciously presented by the Rector, the Rev. H. Tower.

W&E Express : 19th April 1902

**PING-PONG TOURNAMENT.** - The final of the members' table tennis handicap competition took place in the small hall of the Leopold Institute on Thursday evening. In No. 1 section Mr. E. Birtchnell was first, winning all five games, and Mr. Bert Blanchett second, winning four and obtaining 95 points. In No. 2 section Mr. Boyd-Wicks and Mr. W. Harding each won four games and registered 93 points each. The final resulted in a victory for Mr. Boyd-Wicks, who won all three games. Mr. Birtchnell was second, winning one game and scoring 53 points, and Mr. Blanchett third. He also won one game and scored 50 points. The Consolation prize was secured by Mr. G. Bowyer. The first prize was a travelling clock, the second a dressing case, and the third a set of brushes. The Consolation award was a silver ash tray. Mr. E. Weaver-Adams presented the prizes, and upon the proposition of Mr. C. Godfrey was thanked for undertaking the distribution.

## COLNSIDE PING-PONG CLUB

The finals of the tournament were played by the above club at the Public Rooms, Colnbrook, on Saturday last, the results of the four events being:-

Ladies' Handicap. - Miss E. Southey beat Miss Passingham 20-18, winning Mr. W. Garner's prize, a silver mounted powder box.

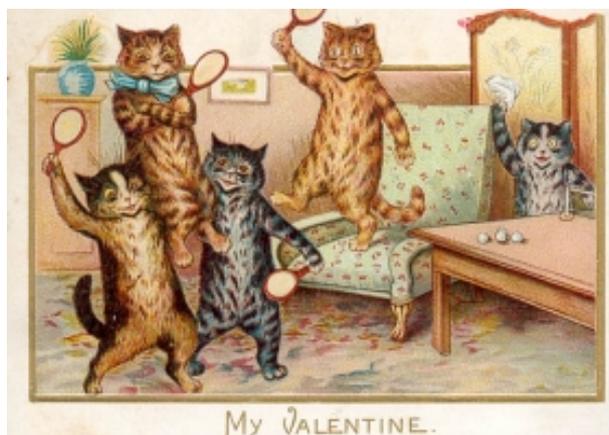
Gentlemen's Handicap. - Mr. R. Lee beat Mr. J. Maitland 20-15, winning the club prize, a brass inkstand.

Mixed Handicap. - Miss Passingham beat Mr. W. Garner 20-8, winning Mr. C. Ibotsson's prize, a ping pong racquet with silver shield.

In the four handed game Miss Passingham and Mr. R. Lee were the winners, not losing a point in any set, and thus obtaining Mr. E. Lee's prize, a silver button-hook and shoe horn.

Owing to a lack of time the Consolation Prize, a silver-mounted blotter, presented by the club, was not competed for, the event being postponed until today (Saturday), the last meeting of the season.

SWE Observer : 3rd May 1902



There are several drawings by the famous cat artist, Louis Wain, to be found. One appears on a Christmas postcard, this on a folded valentine card. This is one of six plates produced for the children's book "Ping-Pong as seen by Louis Wain" featuring stories by Clifton Bingham.

**A PING-PONG** tournament will be held in the Queen's Head Hotel, Taplow, on Friday evening.

Maidenhead Advertiser : 30th April 1902

# Parlour Tennis

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The game spawned several different titles - Table Tennis, Ping-Pong, Whiff-Waff, Pim-Pam, Pit-a-Pat, Royal Tennis and others. This one is Parlour Tennis and was manufactured by T. Ordish & Co.

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## AN OPEN AIR PING PONG TOURNAMENT

Will be held in the

RECTORY GARDEN, SLOUGH  
(If wet in the Town Hall)  
Tuesday & Wednesday, July 15 & 16  
In connection with the Bazaar

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There will be Three Events Open to all Comers

- Event 1. - Gentlemen's Tournament, Entrance Fee, 6d.
  - Event 2. - Ladies Tournament, Entrance Fee, 6d.
  - Event 3. - Tournament. Open to all Winners of Events nos. 1 & 2. Entrance Fee, 9d.
- 

Entries may be made on the Ground on either day at the time of play, and players will be divided into sections of Eight as they arrive.

Every winner of a Section will be entitled to select a Prize from one of the Stalls value 2s.

All players in Events 1 & 2 (except previous Winners), are eligible to compete again and again until they have won a Prize, on renewing Entrance Fee.

All winners of Sections are eligible to compete in Event 3 for Two handsome Prizes.

The Tournament will be under the management of Mr. C. Godfrey, Mr. Andrews and Mr. Boyd Wickes.

If intending Competitors will send their Entries by Monday, July 14th, stating day and probable time of arrival to Mr. Boyd Wickes, Elmside, Slough, it will facilitate arrangements

To commence promptly at 3 p.m. each day

Event 3, at 5.45 each evening

## ADMISSION TO BAZAAR

Tuesday, 3 till 5, 1s : after 5, 6d.

Wednesday, 3 till 4.30, 1s : after 4.30, 6d.

(This is an advertisement on the front cover of the newspaper)

SWE Observer : 12th July 1902

**LADIES' PING-PONG TOURNAMENT.**- An open Ping-Pong tournament for "ladies", organised by the Royal Albert Institute Games Committee, took place in the small hall, on Tuesday evening. Miss Hilda Lingwood, who won the similar competition at the Holy Trinity schools the previous week, again proved her skill at this popular game by carrying off the prize, Miss Fleming being second.

W&E Express : 26th April 1902

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**COLNESIDE PING PONG CLUB.** - A very representative gathering of ladies and gentlemen assembled a few days ago in the Public Rooms to show their appreciation of their hon. sec. Miss Lee, who had worked so assiduously and arranged everything in such businesslike style that all in connection with the club felt they should like in some way to acknowledge their indebtedness to her for the benefits received, and so Mrs. Romney, of Boyne House, on behalf of the club, stepped forward, and, in a very graceful way presented to Miss Lee a beautiful set of silver buckles and buttons.

SWE Observer : 24th May 1902

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## TUESDAY

### PING PONG TOURNAMENT

Under the management of Mr. Boyd-Wickes, Mr. J. Andrews and Mr. C. Godfrey, a table tennis tournament had been arranged, two tables being erected on the carriage drive close to the main entrance to the house. Excellent form was shown by most of the competitors, and the result of a keen contest was a win for Miss Minnie Garner, of Uxbridge, with Mr. Boyd-Wickes, of Slough, second.

## WEDNESDAY

### TABLE TENNIS

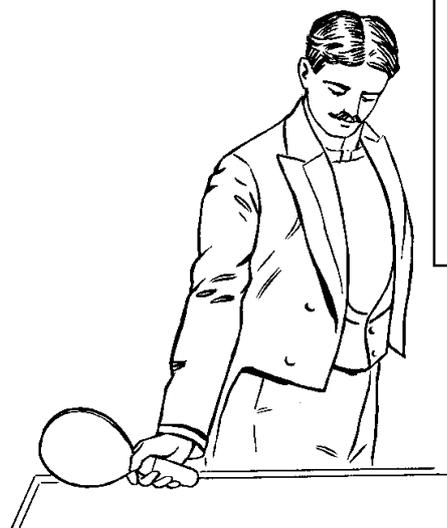
The table tennis tournaments were resumed on Wednesday, and after some really excellent play, Miss May Garner, of Uxbridge, obtained the premier award. Mr. Boyd-Wickes, of Slough, again being second. Mr. & Mrs. Padgett, of Wycombe and Mr. J. Andrews, of Slough, were the other section winners.

(this is from a long report on a bazaar - held in beautifully sunny weather)

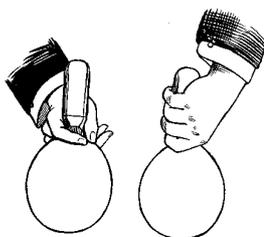
SWE Observer : 19th July 1902

# How to Play Table Tennis

There were several books which dealt with how to play the game. These drawings are taken from *Spalding's Athletic Library - Table Tennis - April 1902*. Contemporary reports do, however, suggest that gentlemen usually removed their jackets (but not their collars and ties) before commencing play. However, these diagrams probably show the level of sophistication (or lack of it) prevailing at the time.



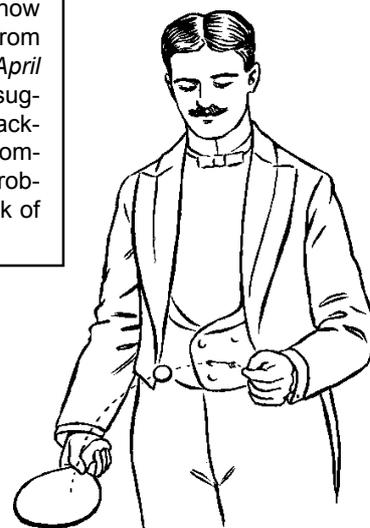
FORE-HAND HALF VOLLEY DOWN RIGHT HAND SIDE OF TABLE.



FOREHOLDER GRIP. BACK-HAND GRIP.



FORE-HAND GRIP.



SCREW SERVICE.

**PING-PONG MATCH** - On Wednesday evening a table-tennis match took place at the Uxbridge Constitutional Club between Messrs. F.R. Langley, W.H. Lacey, F.E. Butt, G.H. Barclay, G.P. Hammond, and L.W.H. Ralph, representing Slough, and six members of the Uxbridge Constitutional Club. A capital contest ended in a victory for the home club by 10 games to 8. Messrs. Langley and Lacey played particularly well for Slough, winning three games each, and Messrs. How and Peck exhibited excellent form for the winners. The visitors were entertained by their opponents, and a return match has been arranged at the Crown Hotel, Slough, on Wednesday next.

SWE Observer : 14th March 1903

**PING-PONG MATCH** - The return match between the Uxbridge Constitutional Club and Slough took place on Wednesday last at the Crown Hotel, and resulted in a victory for Slough by 12 games to 6. As each team has now won one match at home, arrangements are being made to have a "decider" at a neutral place. For the winners - Langley, Lacey and Barclay deserve special notice, each winning three games, while the rest of the team played well. On the Uxbridge side Jacobs came out on top with two wins. The Slough team consisted of Messrs. W.H. Lacey, G.H. Barclay, F.R. Langley, H.G. Wilson, F.E. Batt and L.W.H. Ralph, Uxbridge depending upon the same players as last week.

SWE Observer : 21st March 1903

## THE LANGLEY PING PONG CLUB

This club brought their season to a most successful conclusion on Saturday last at the Village Hall. The members turned up in force, and after an excellent tea, which was given by Mr. Herbert Hopkinson, the finals in the tournament were played off. The games were exceedingly well contested, and in several instances the results were in doubt up to almost the last stroke. A nice selection of prizes had been provided by the club and friends, and the results of the various competitions, with the prizes won, are as follows:-

### LADIES' OPEN

First prize, won by Miss D. Turner, a Slazenger's "E.G.M." lawn tennis racquet, the gift of Mrs. Van Tromp; second prize, Miss M. Turner, an art metal tray, presented by the Club.

### LADIES' HANDICAP

First prize, Miss Hopkinson, a case of silver mounted dressing bag accessories, the gift of Mr. Hopkinson, the president of the club; second prize, Miss Ashton, a manicure set, presented by the Club.

### GENTLEMEN'S OPEN

First prize, Mr. R. Turner, a gold mounted amber cigarette lighter, the gift of Mr. Hopkinson; second prize, Mr. Hubert Turner, silver mounted pencil case, presented by the club.

### GENTLEMEN'S HANDICAP

First prize, Mr. Charles Major, jnr, a Slazenger's "Doherty" lawn tennis racquet, presented by Mr. R.H. Major; second prize, Mr. Hillier, a silver mounted walking stick, presented by the Club.

### MIXED DOUBLES

First prize, won by Miss Hopkinson, a silver mounted brush, presented by Mr. Van Tromp, and by Mr. Parker, a silver flask, presented by Mr. A. Major; second prize, Miss Elwsche, a music case, presented by the Club, and by Mr. Gough, a cigarette case, presented by the Club.

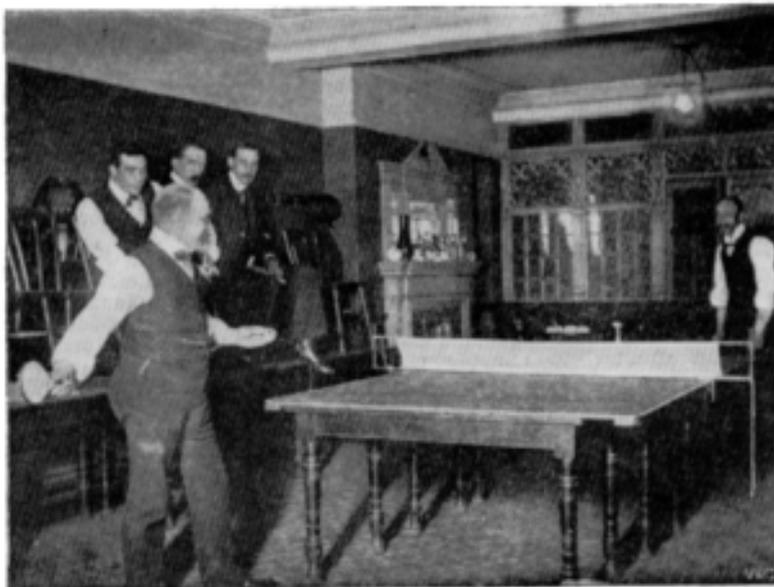
"Boobie prizes" were also obtained by Miss Bizzkexxoe, a ?, presented by Mr. Murdocs, and by Mr. W. ?, a ping pong golliwog, presented by Mr. T. Parker.

The prizes having been handed to the various winners by Mrs. Hopkinson, the wife of the President, the proceedings were brought to a close after hearty votes of thanks had been passed to Mrs. Hopkinson for her kindness in officiating, and the Mr. R. Turner for his indefatigable services as secretary of the club during the past season.

SWE Observer : 4th April 1903

PING-PONG.- On Thursday last a Ping-pong match was played at the Maidenhead Working Men's Club between five members thereof and Mr. W. Allen's team. This was a return match to one played a month ago at Messrs. Nyron's studio, when the W.M.C. were victorious by 15 games to 10. On Thursday last 25 games were played of 25 points each, and the home team won an interesting and pleasant contest by 17 games to 8. The teams were as follows:- Messrs. G.G. Horrocks, J.S. Manlove, J.C.R. Gardner, G.A.G. Morgan and K.L.M.J. Schultz; and Messrs, W. Allen, Nyren, W. Wilkins, E. Hall and C.A.S. Vardy.

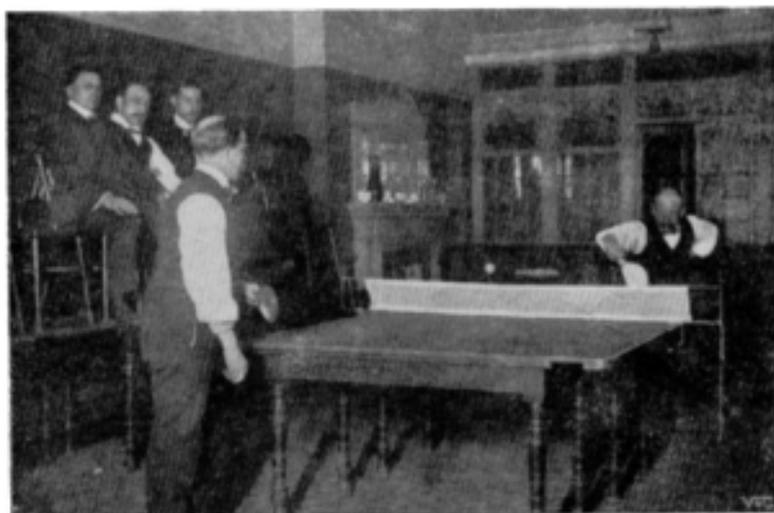
Maidenhead Advertiser : 8th April 1903



1. The Service. [Photo by C. Pilkington.]

**TABLE TENNIS CONTEST** - At the Leopold Institute on Tuesday evening a ping pong match was played by sides representative of the Leopold Institute and the Uxbridge Constitutional Club. The Slough team, consisting of Messrs. F.R. Langley, W.H. Lacey, E. Birtchnell, J. Berry, S.G. Moss, and G.H. Barclay, won by 13 games to 5. Messrs. Langley and Lacey won all their games for Slough, and Mr. How won all his games for Uxbridge.

SWE Observer : 7th November 1903



2. The Return. [Photo by C. Pilkington.]

**TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT.** - On Tuesday evening some members of the Leopold Institute went to Uxbridge and played their return ping-pong match with the Uxbridge Conservative Club. Slough were successful by ten games to eight. The teams were precisely the same as the previous match. For Slough, Mr. Langley won all his games.

SWE Observer : 5th December 1903



3. Close Play at the Net. [Photo by C. Pilkington.]

The photographs (right) appeared in The Boy's Own Paper (1901 or 1902) and were taken at the Cavendish Club in London. The Cavendish claims to be first club to be formed in the country and was responsible for writing the first laws of the game (rather than manufacturers' offerings) that were widely adopted until the formation of both the Ping-Pong Association and the Table Tennis Association in December 1901.

A **TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT** took place at the Uxbridge Constitutional Club on Tuesday evening between the members of that club and the Slough Leopold Institute, the latter willing by 10 games to 8. The winners were represented by Messrs. F.R. Langley and W.H. Lacey (who won all their games), G. Barclay, J. Berry, E. Birtchnell, and S.G. Moss.

SWE Observer : 6th February 1904

**TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT.** - On Tuesday evening some members of the Leopold Institute played a table tennis match with the Uxbridge Conservative Club, Slough winning by 11 games to 7. Mr. E. Birtchnell and Mr. F. Langley won all their games for the Leopold Institute.

SWE Observer : 5th March 1904



Play in the Drawing-Room

**PING - PONG SETS.**

**PRICES.**

No. 00.—With iron screw clamps to posts and small size Battledores .....	2 6
No. 0.—Ditto, with larger bats and superior clamps and rubbered .....	3 6
No. 1.—Superior Battledores and screw clamps to Posts as illustrated .....	5 0
No. 2.—A very popular set, with Wood or Parchment Battledores, and brass Clamps .....	7 6
No. 3.—As No. 2. with Vellum or Wood Battledores .....	10 6
<b>CLUB PATTERN SETS for Tournament and Expert Play</b>	
No. 4.—With projecting wings to Posts, and Vellum Battledores .....	12 6
No. 5.—Superior full Club size Bats .....	15 0
No. 6.— <b>THE TOURNAMENT SET</b> , with special Club pattern Posts, and best "Queen's Hall" Vellum Battledores .....	21 0
No. 7.— <b>THE TOURNAMENT SET</b> , as No. 6, nickel fittings and ball holders .....	25 0
No. 7A.—Ditto in superior style of case .....	30 0
No. 8.— <b>THE SOCIETY SET</b> , in handsome Mahogany Case, forming an elegant and novel Gift. Lifters, etc., and every requisite of special design and finish .....	42 0
<b>THE "LITTLE FOLKS" SET</b> , for children's use, complete with Net, Posts, and two Battledores, in box complete. <b>Price 1s.</b>	
<b>J. JAQUES &amp; SON, Ltd., 102, Hatton Garden, London, E.C.</b>	

## Why did it all end?

Why did table tennis, or ping-pong, which had become so popular from late 1900 until 1904 suddenly die? That it did die, in most parts of the country, is undeniable, and it was not revived until after the 1914-18 Great War. Many speculate that the answer lies in the question - table tennis or ping-pong. The latter name was a jealously guarded trade mark of John Jaques & Son who did much to try to preserve its dominant influence. The fact that two separate national bodies, the Ping-Pong Association and the Table Tennis Association were established within a few days of each other in December 1901 gives us a taste of the rivalry that existed at the time. Maybe it was just a fad, a passing craze, like so many others that did not reappear later. There were no leagues in the early years although the first, ironically as the sport was in national decline, was established in 1906 in Plymouth. Isolated examples aside, one has to fast forward to 1922 to find any important further references to table tennis, before the boom years of the 1930s established the game as a true international sport.

**Published by Graham Trimming**, 17 Gwendale, Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 6SH. January 2002.

### Acknowledgments:

The editors of the Slough, Windsor & Eton Observer, Windsor & Eton Express and Maidenhead Advertiser in the period 1901-1904 Gerald Gurney who, through the exhibition of his collection and his fabulous book "Table Tennis - The Early Years", introduced me to the subject of collecting table tennis memorabilia

The anonymous editor on "Table Tennis and Pastimes Pioneer" who, for nine weeks in January to March 1902, provided such a rich resource of contemporary material

The authors of the day, especially Arnold Parker, M.J.G. Ritchie and Walter Harrison

The artists who provided such amusing cartoons in the periodicals and on postcards of the day

The staff at Slough and Maidenhead libraries for allowing me access to archived newspapers

Cippenham Table Tennis Club for allowing the use of its digital camera and photocopying facilities

All photographs and scans are of items in the author's own collection