

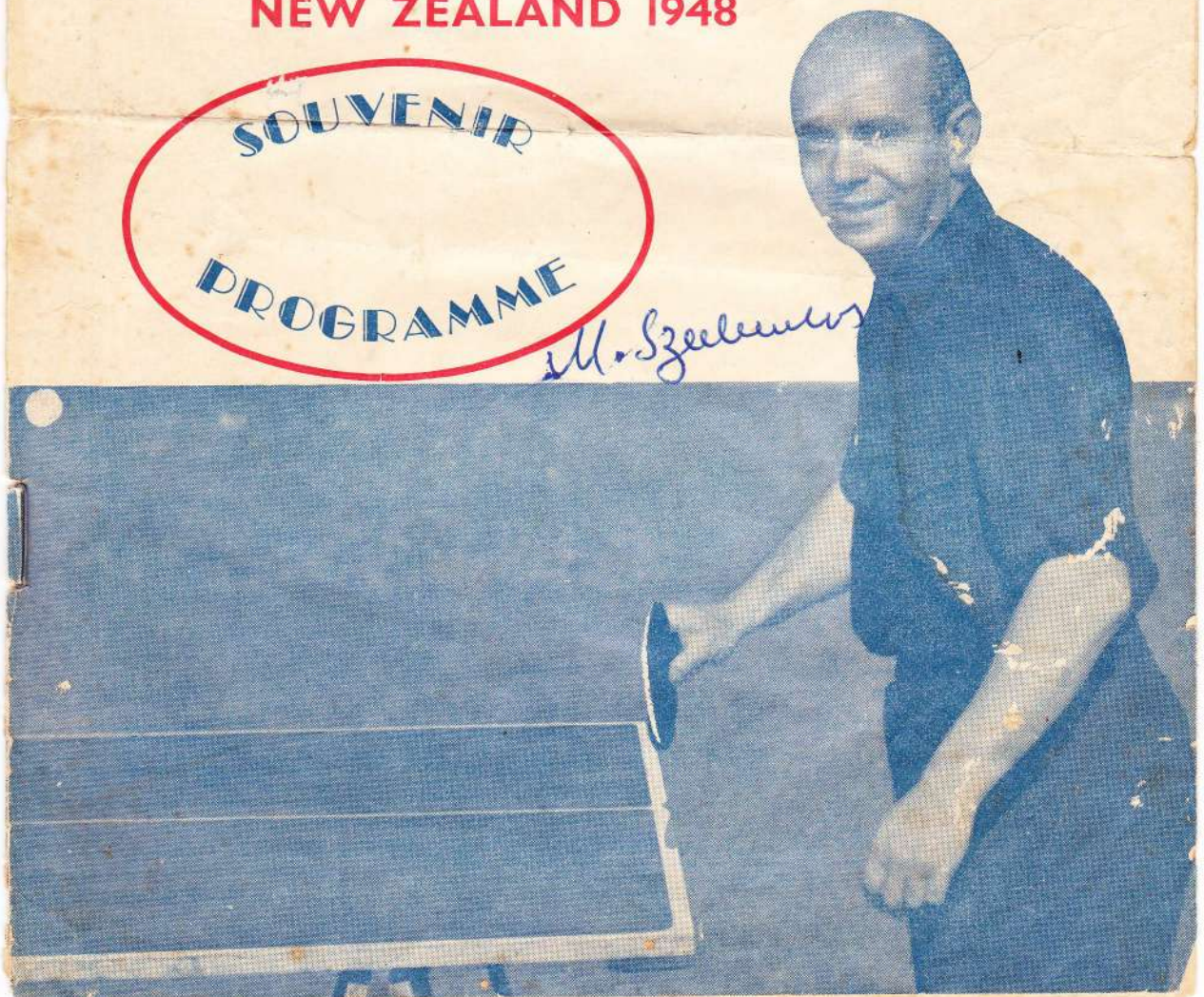
S. C. "Norman" DYER *presents*

MICHAEL

Szabados

INTERNATIONAL
TABLE TENNIS TOUR

NEW ZEALAND 1948



The Background of Michael Szabados

He was given a Table Tennis Set for his 13th birthday!

And that was the beginning of the amazing career of Michael Szabados! The craze that captured the young Szabados has certainly paid dividends!

He was hailed as a child prodigy when he first played in the Budapest Clubs, and was given every opportunity then to develop his game, the game which now influences that of every enthusiast in Australasia to-day.

In 1929, soon after his 16th birthday, after becoming Hungary's Junior Champion the previous year, he was rated No. 1 in the world, a meteoric rise in any field of sport. That year he was runner-up in the World Singles, losing to Fred Perry (yes, of tennis fame!). He had come through that year's major tournaments with flying colours, only to lose in the fourth set in the Finals.

Two years later, he gained the crown and won his first World Singles title, after winning the English and Hungarian Championships, also in straight sets. Three times after that he was runner-up, losing each time in the fifth set to his fellow-country man, Victor Barna, with whom he had already twice won the World Doubles Championship. This famous pair won this event altogether seven times. Then, with Miss Marie Mednyansky, Szabados won the world title in the Mixed Doubles on three occasions, giving him, at the age of 25, a total of 11 world titles. During his nine years of competitive play—except for his "bad season" in 1930, he was ranked either No. 1 or No. 2 in the world.

In 1937, he was invited to Australia by the Aust. T. T. Association. On this visit, which had a tremendous and far-reaching influence on the game in this country, he played in the Australian Championships, winning the Australian title, to add yet another to his 76 international titles.

Since 1937, when he last saw his own country, the game has taken him to many countries, namely, South Africa, India, China, Japan, New Guinea, Malaya, Java and South America. But, after spending almost six months of each year, from the age of 17, in England, it was not unnatural for him to return to Australia to make his home and so, in 1939, he began an 18 months' tour of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

In 1941, he opened his Academy in Sydney, and in the seven years since, he has handled many thousands of players.

During the war years, when he was in Sydney, Szabados gave many exhibitions for the Red Cross and the Forces, these appearances bringing him many more friends.

Programme Sequence

- 1 Overture - - - - - PRESENTED BY THE ENSEMBLE
- 2 "LET'S START THE SHOW"
with Lovely **VIVIAN THOMPSON** and **IVAN DIEDRICH**
- 3 The Compere Introduces Australia's Radio Favourite **JOHNNY ASHCROFT**
- 4 "IMPRESSIONS OF A MAN ABOUT TOWN" as seen by **IVAN DIEDRICH**
- 5 MELODIOUS MOMENTS - - - - - with **JACK ALLAN**
- 6 HIT TUNE PARADE OF 1948 - - - - -
- 7 HILLBILLY ANTICS - - - - - with **JOHNNY ASHCROFT**
- 8 In Person - - - - - "FRANK SWINATRA"
- 9 HAWAIIAN MEMORIES - - - - - and the "DANCE OF ALOHA"

INTERVAL

- 10 OVERTURE - - - - - **MUSICAL MERRY-GO-ROUND**
- 11 TABLE TENNIS ODDITIES - - - with **JACKPOT** and **CRACKPOT**
- 12 We Introduce - - -

MICHAEL
SZABADOS

and

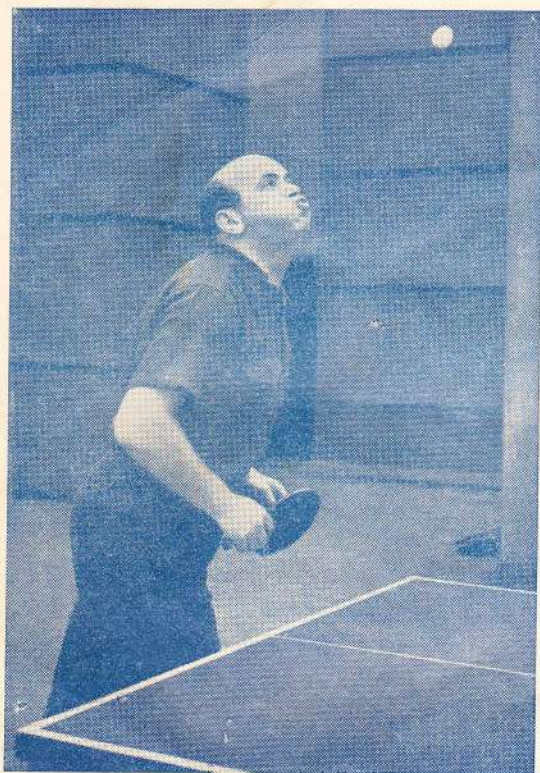
PHIL
ANDERSEN

In a Special Challenge Match
- 13 A MUSICAL INTERLUDE - - - - -
- 14 TABLE TENNIS TANTRUMS
Presented by
SZABADOS and ANDERSEN
- 15 IT'S A PITY TO SAY GOOD NIGHT - - - - -
- 16 GOD SAVE THE KING - - - - -

1948 INTERNATIONAL

TOUR DIRECTOR

S. C. "NORMAN" DYER



← Pictured at left is the famous Szabados demonstrating one of his classic trick shots during a novelty match with Phil Anderssen.

Below:

A trio of lovely Australian Tivoli girls exhibit interest in the non-chalant style used by Szabados during his recent sensational theatrical tour of Australian capital cities.



TABLE TENNIS TOUR

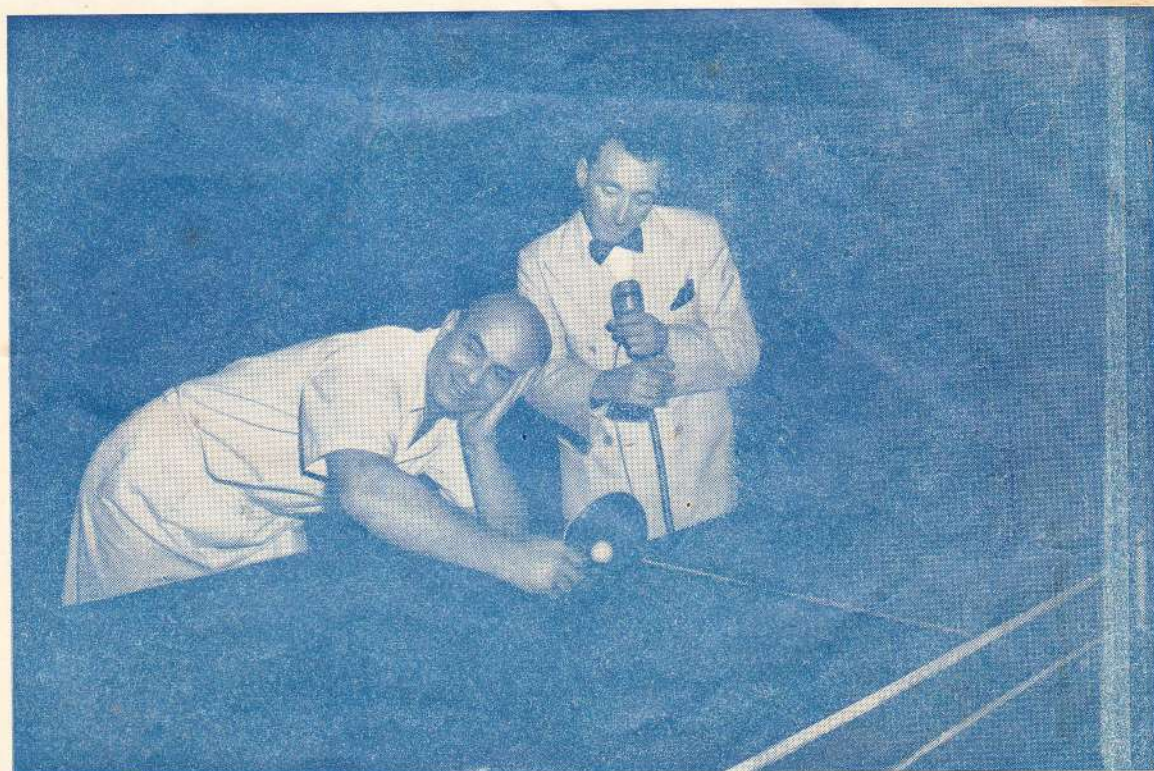
TOUR MANAGER
GEO. DAVIES



At the right, Phil Anderssen is seen using an unusual method of playing table tennis. This shot and others, perfected by Szabados and Anderssen, have made them the world's leading novelty shot team.

Below:

Whilst an announcer describes his play, Szabados assumes a look of complete boredom. This photograph was taken recently for a "Pix" series.



Salient Points for Beginners

By MICHAEL SZABADOS

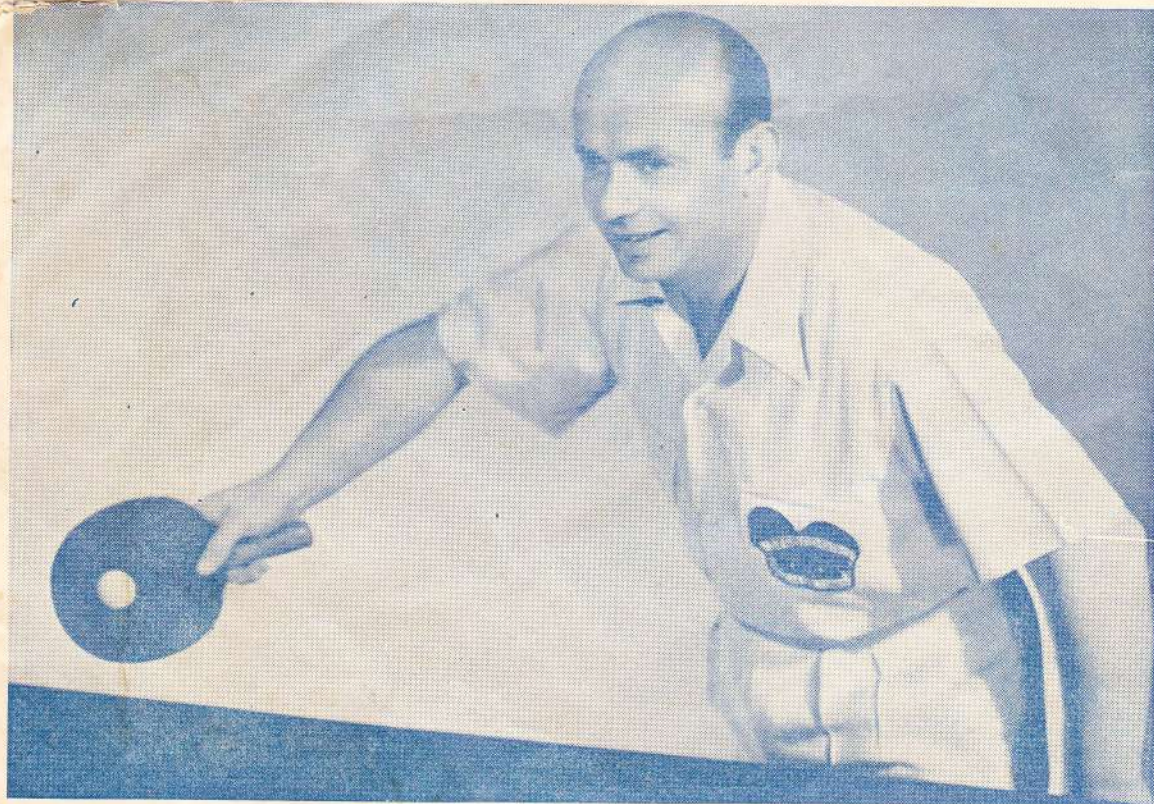
Table Tennis demands that the player uses the very best of equipment. The days of the sandpaper bat akin to ping pong have vanished, and now practically without exception the competition table tennis player uses the rubber-covered bat. By using the rubber bat the necessary spins—topspin, chop, etc.—can be learnt and mastered.

Forehand Grip. To gain the maximum of power and control, the bat is held by what is commonly known as the tennis grip. With the thumb firmly on the back of the bat and the index and second fingers spread slightly apart on the face of the bat, grip the bat firmly between the thumb and the forefinger. When making the stroke, the pressure on the thumb is relaxed and pressure exerted by the two fingers on the back of the bat.

Forehand Drive. You start the shot about one foot behind the spot where the ball bounces, using very little back swing. The bat is held on an average vertical and should be level with the height the ball bounces. Then with a forward movement of your arm, hit the ball; (in lawn tennis you hit the ball in the centre of the bat, but for the table tennis forehand the ball should be hit in a position between the centre and the bottom edge of the bat) and then follow through with your arm, finishing the stroke well above your head.

A Few don'ts:—

- (1) Don't rush your forehand drive. The majority of players when going to "kill" a ball, rush their shot, the longer you pause the more speed you actually obtain in your stroke.
- (2) Don't concentrate on too much back swing; the most important movement is the forward move of your arm when you have made contact with the ball and the follow through. With too much swing the drive will be inconsistent.



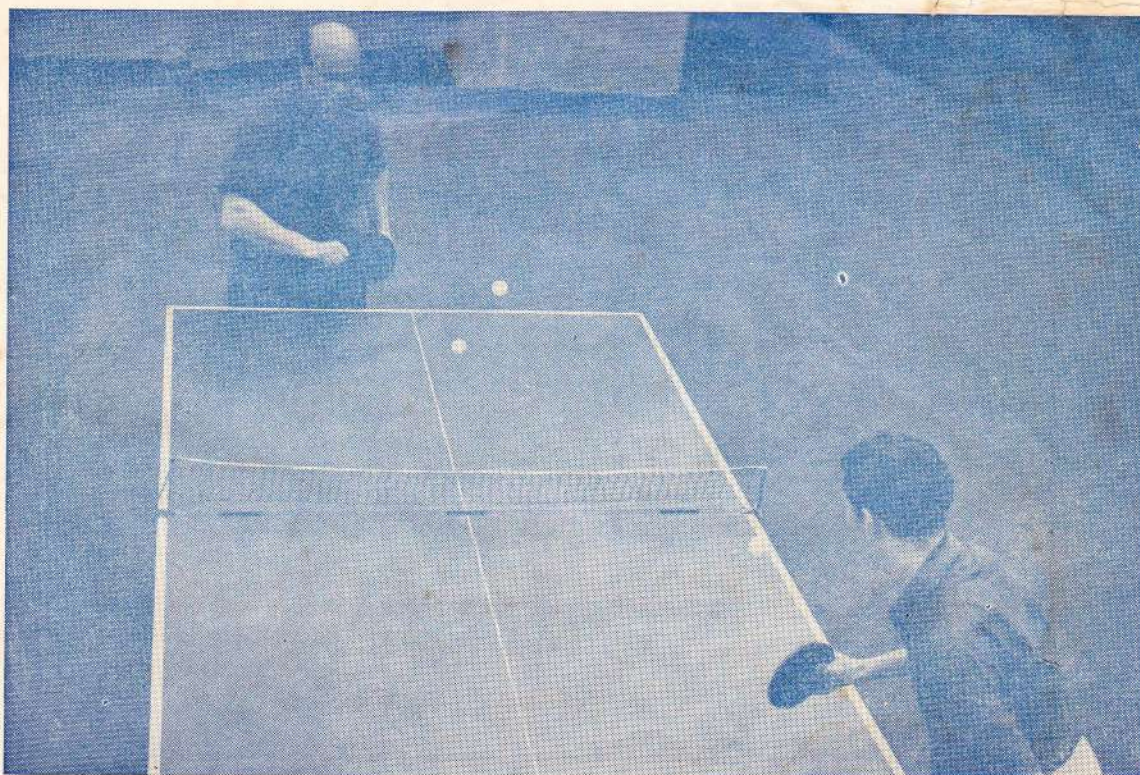
AUSTRALIAN HOPE . . .

. . . Phil Anderssen

Twenty-seven year old Phil Anderssen has only been playing Table Tennis for seven years, but in that time, under the guidance of Michael Szabados and as his partner, he has proven himself in world class. Anderssen's home is in the far north of Queensland, where the sport is not over popular as yet, but during the last few years he has made Sydney his base, in order to concentrate fully on the sport.

This unassuming young athlete has also captured championship honours in three other sports, and only recently refused several enticing offers to proceed to America and turn professional. Szabados claims that Anderssen will eventually become World's Singles Champion.

The accompanying pictures show him (at right) prior to the commencement of a match; and (below) in fast-moving action playing three balls at once with the famous Szabados.



Details of the 1948 International Tour

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The current Dominion-wide tour at present being undertaken by Szabados and company was planned several years ago following the exhibitions he gave in capital cities here en route to Australia from America. Since that time he has played in every city and main centre in Australia.

The Dominion tour embraces more than 100 towns and cities from Dargaville in the north to Invercargill in the south.

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Following appearances in New Zealand, the company plans to leave for South Africa for a six months' season, after which no definite plans have as yet been formulated.

One thing is evident . . . tours of this nature will do much to further the sport in the countries visited. Already demands have been made by New Zealand towns which have not been included in the present itinerary for a visit by the Szabados company.

At a later date it is intended to repeat the Dominion season, which, the promoters feel, will be eagerly awaited by enthusiasts in all centres.

TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS!!!

Ask Your Sports Dealer For

SZABADOS
EQUIPMENT

MANUFACTURED EXCLUSIVELY IN AUSTRALIA BY

MICHAEL SZABADOS

399 GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA

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