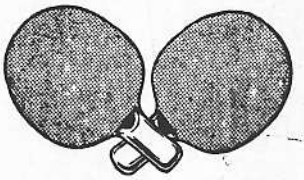
TABLE TENNIS



NEW ZEALAND

v.

JAPAN

(Second Test)

Lower Hutt Town Hall

Thursday, 23rd June, 1960

★

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Mayor's Welcome

"IT is a great occasion for Lower Hutt to be the meeting place for representative table tennis players of Japan and New Zealand.

"This city is fortunate to be in the position of providing the facilities for an international game of table tennis.

"When players reach the standard that we shall witness in this Test match it is indicative that they have worked diligently and are very fit physically.

"I have no doubt that the visit to New Zealand of these eminent players will rouse additional interest in an already popular sport. Good sport supplies the physical exercise necessary for a balanced mind and body.

"We are looking forward to a thrilling evening."

P. DOWSE,
Mayor of Lower Hutt City.

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Previous Tours of N.Z.

THE WORLD'S BEST HAVE BEEN HERE

The first visit to N.Z. by an overseas table tennis team was in 1937 when M. Szabados and I. Kelen, two Hungarians with world titles tagged to their names, aroused interest in a comparatively new sport in this country.

Szabados was the 1930-31 world singles champion, and Kelen won the world mixed doubles title with Miss A. Sipos (Hungary) in the 1928-29 season.

Moving off from New Zealand Szabados and Kelen visited several countries among them Japan where they kindled the flame that was to subsequently engulf a nation in the sport.

Szabados settled in Australia and is still in Sydney where he runs a table tennis academy.

In 1938 the great Victor Barna and Lazlo Bellak, two more Hungarians came. Barna had won five world singles titles, seven world men's doubles titles and two world mixed doubles titles—in all 14 world titles, a feat never since accomplished.

These two tours were a shot in the arm for New Zealand table tennis.

Then came the Second World War. It was 11 years before New Zealand was to have another tour. For the second time it was Barna, and this time, in 1949, he had with him one of the game's most notable characters, Richard Bergmann, an exiled European who won the world championship in 1947-48 and 1949-50 in England's name. The handsome Bergmann paired beautifully with the artistic Barna in presenting exhibition table tennis of breath-taking skill and beauty. On that tour Barna was accompanied by his wife.

WHAT IS RARE?

In 1951 Johnny Leach (England), the world champion in 1948-49 (in between Bergmann's years) came with a Frenchman M. Hagunauer, a man whose grip was odd, but who probably gained fame in this country for two things—an excellent player and his vocal disputes with waitresses and hotel management over the condition of his rare steaks. Apparently N.Z.'s version of rare steak did not coincide with the French one.

Leach, a nicely built man with a lovely style was most popular.

Then came the first and only other tour of New Zealand by a women's team. The trail blazers were the internationally famous Rowe twins Diane and Rosalind. They came in 1953, shocked some New Zealand puritans with the shortness of their shorts, and had people clinging on window sills to get a look at them in some places where small halls were booked out.

Diane and Rosalind Rowe played beautiful table tennis, were lovely tourists, and swelled the coffers of the table tennis associations with record profits. The Rowes won the world women's doubles championship in 1950-51 and 1953-54.

The year 1957 will forever remain in the memories of New Zealand's keenest followers of table tennis for it was in that year that we had the dynamic Japanese men world champions T. Tanaka and I. Ogimura. Their withering attack blasted New Zealanders off the table and made us realise just how far removed our game is from top world standard.

As long ago as 1933 the world champion F. J. Perry, and the renowned lawn tennis world champion, and the only man to win a world title at tennis and table tennis, briefly stayed in N.Z. and played in Wellington with another world famous tennis player named Wilde. But it was not a tour.

In 1952 the English international Ken Stanley was in New Zealand under contract to the N.Z.T.T.A. as a coach, and he is the only overseas player to ever win a N.Z. championship title.

NUDES IN ACT

In 1954 Richard Bergmann dropped in solo for a short tour. He was a busy man, a real globetrotter. He has just finished a contract with Paris night club at which his act included the presence and participation of several nudes. "They (the spectators) came to see me, not the nudes", said Bergmann in characteristic style.

Introducing the N.Z. Players

The N.Z. team for tonight's test is Miss Joyce M. Williamson, of Canterbury, Miss Barbara C. Packwood, of Auckland, and Miss Neti Davis, of Northland.

Pen pictures of the players are:--

Miss Williamson.—Born at Christchurch 25 years ago, went to Christchurch West High School. Her interest in table tennis was aroused when a neighbour, Mr. H. Williams invited her to play on his private table. Miss Williamson was then 13. The Blue Star Taxis in Christchurch was her first club, and at 14 years of age she played her first representative game for Canterbury. It was against Otago. Miss Williamson has won all New Zealand titles, senior and junior, except the open mixed doubles. She has even won the Ladies' bracelet.

A private secretary, Miss Williamson was New Zealand singles champion in 1951 and 1954, and she represented New Zealand in the tests against England in 1953 when the Rowe twins, of England, were in New Zealand. In 1957 she went to England and remained there until early this year. Miss Williamson is the holder of the Irish singles and doubles and the Scottish mixed doubles titles. Last year she played for New Zealand in the Marcel Cobillon Cup women's international teams' event at the world championships in Germany. Her N.Z. team mate was Miss Fay Inglis, formerly of Hutt Valley. For the last two years Miss Williamson has been coaching professionally in England, and since returning to New Zealand has coached something like 400 children. She is returning to England in November to marry Mr. Gwyn Evans, a Welshman and professional Soccer player with the Crystal Palace Club.

MISS WILLIAMSON

Miss Packwood.—Born in Wanganui, was educated at St. Mary's College in Wellington. Miss Packwood got her introduction to table tennis in Christchurch while attending Canterbury University and in her first year of play, 1949 played for Canterbury. She got a New Zealand University Blue for table tennis in 1950, when she won the universities' singles.

A left-hander, Miss Packwood took up a position as a secondary school teacher in Auckland in 1952, and has resided there since. She played for Canterbury in 1949-50-51 and for Auckland in 1952-53-56-57-59. A North Island representative in 1955-56-57-59, Miss Packwood has lost only one singles in inter-island competition. It is as a doubles player that Miss Packwood has had most success. She has won many titles including the New Zealand women's in 1957 and the Auckland women's doubles championship seven times—with three different partners.

In 1957 she toured Australia with the then New Zealand singles champion Miss M. M. Hoar (now married and living in Sydney. Her husband is a new Australian, a Greek J. Catsalis) and with Mrs. J. E. Magorian (selected to play in the first Test). Miss Packwood has been a remarkably consistent player.

Miss N. Davis.—Born in Whangarei, Miss Davis's history reads like a fairy-book story. She received her early play in a tin shed and was coached by her aged Maori grandfather, who had watched a former world champion man play in New Zealand and went home to coach his granddaughter. At 10 years of age Neti was a useful player. At 13 she hit the Press headlines when she played in the New Zealand championships in Lower Hutt. She won nearly all the junior finals and was runner-up in the open mixed doubles with G. A. J. Frew (Northland). At 14 and 15 she played for North Island

(continued on page 16)

Fist Test ever in Hutt Valley

The Japan v. New Zealand Test tonight is the first table tennis test, men or women, ever played in the Hutt Valley.

The Hutt Valley Table Tennis Association takes this opportunity of welcoming both teams, and on behalf of the public and the association desires to express its best wishes and congratulations to the visitors and to the New Zealand team.

In this country our sporting ambassadors are our Rugby footballers, the All Blacks. Here Rugby is almost a religion. In Japan table tennis is the top sport. It has a playing population of more than 5,000,000. To make the All-Japan table tennis team is a great honour in the land of the rising sun, just as it is to become an All Black in New Zealand

Our visitors, therefore, realise their country's reputation as tops in the world is at stake, and can accordingly be expected to give the New Zealanders little quarter.

The champion of the world, Miss Matsuzaki is 22. She is a student at Shenshu University where she is taking a commerce course. She hopes to get her degrees and then marry.

The co-holder of the world's doubles championship Miss Yamaizumi is 25 and works for a Tokyo clothing firm. Miss T. Namba (Japan) holds the world title with her.

MISS K. MATSUZAKI

MISS K. YAMAIZUMI

On their tour of New Zealand the Japanese have won their matches by convincing margins. At the time of writing they had not dropped a set. Japan, of course, holds the No. 1 ranking in the world in teams' play. N.Z. with only a background of Tests against the celebrated English twins Diane and Rosalind Rowe in this country, therefore, have little background to support their chances in tonight's match.

Japan recently had a Hungarian team on tour. Crowds of over 30,000 saw the tests, and millions viewed the tests on television.

In a country with such an immense playing population—it is more than double the entire population of New Zealand—it is not surprising that Japan produces world champions. The manager of Misses Matsuzaki and Yamaizumi (the team captain) makes no secret of the fact that there are about 30 women in Japan in the top group with very little between them.

Table tennis is an all the year round game in Japan, and Misses Matsuzaki and Yamaizumi each have about five hours' practice a day, which includes physical training exercises. Both Misses Matsuzaki and Yamaizumi are pen-grip players, the one time popular grip throughout the world, but now used almost exclusively in the Orient.

(Continued on page 16)

Let us Explain

Dear Public, Many of you in our audience tonight will be puzzled. You will wonder why our programme does not set down details of the draw.

It is not our wish to impose on the public, but we had no alternative. The Japan and N.Z. Table Tennis Associations agreed to play this Test under Marcel Corbillon Cup rules, which provide for the draw to be made in front of the public a few minutes before the start of play.

This has never previously been associated with any tour of this Dominion.

The Marcel Corbillon Cup contest is for women's team play in international competition and is held in conjunction with the World Championships. Japan holds the trophy, which is not at stake tonight.

Under the circumstances we could not provide you with a full printed draw, but we have left spaces for you to fill in the names as they are announced.

Australian Visit

The first visit to New Zealand by an Australian men's team will take place next month. G. Jennings and M. Wilcox will arrive at Christchurch on July 17 for a three week's tour of this country concluding with the only test of the tour at Auckland.

The Australians will play Hutt Valley on Thursday, July 28. The venue of the match has yet to be decided.

—★—

THANKS

The lights used for both the Hutt Valley v. Japan and N.Z. v. Japan matches were kindly loaned by Messrs Cory, Wright and Salmon Ltd. The H.V.-T.T.A. desires to express its thanks to the firm for its assistance.

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Japan v. New Zealand

THE TEAMS

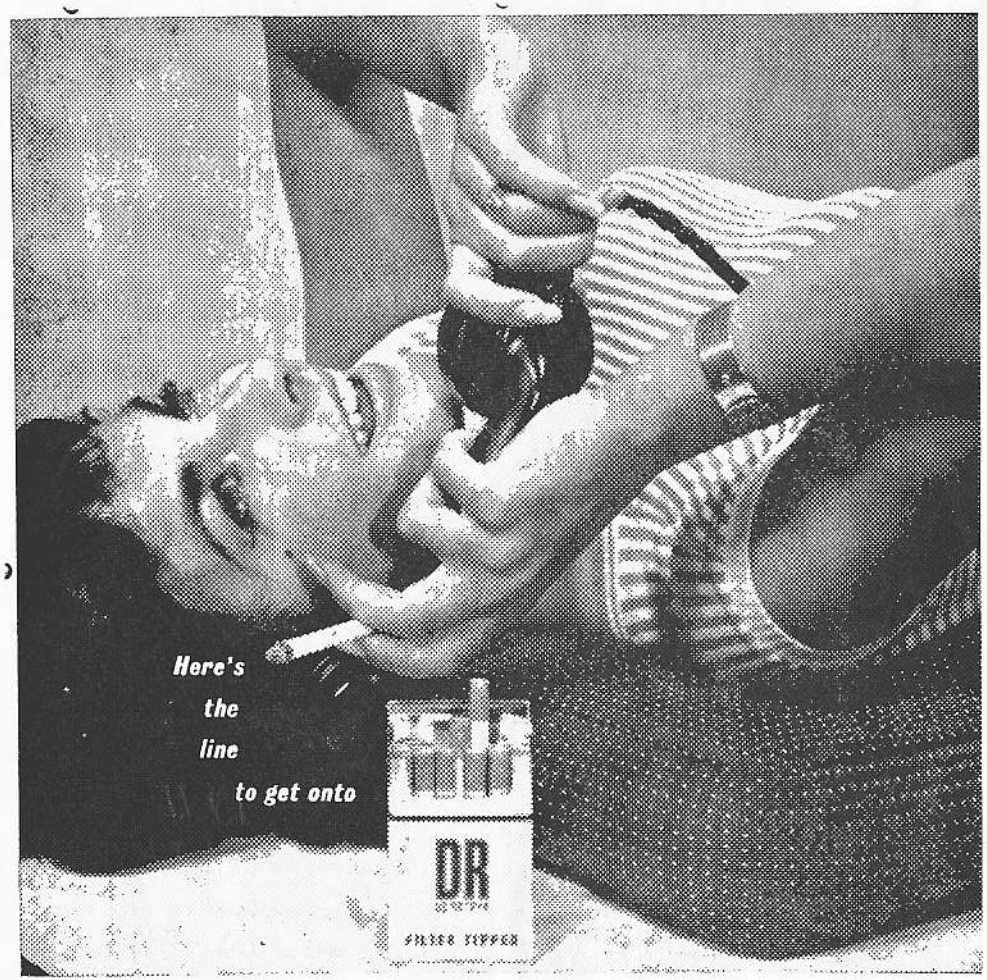
JAPAN	NEW ZEALAND
No. 1. Miss K. Matsuzaki	No. 1. Miss J. M. Williamson
No. 2. Miss K. Yamaizumi	No. 2. Miss B. C. Packwood
	No. 3. Miss N. Davis
Manager: Mr. H. Shimizu	Manager: Mrs. V. E. Muirhead

	Scores 1st Set	2nd Set	3rd Set
Event No. 1 Packwood	5	7	
v YAMAIZUMI	21	21	
Umpire: Mr. K. L. Pointon.			
Event No. 2 WILLIAMSON	12	8	
v MATSUZAKI	21	21	
Umpire: Miss B. K. Gardner.			
Event No. 3 Doubles game WILLIAMSON & DAVIS	7	7	
v MATSUZAKI & YAMAIZUMI	21	21	
Umpire: Mr. R. G. Lea.			
INTERVAL			
Event No. 4 PACKWOOD	10	11	
v MATSUZAKI	21	21	
Umpire: Mr. R. J. Campbell.			
Event No. 5 WILLIAMSON	9	12	
v YAMAIZUMI	21	21	
Umpire: Mr. K. L. Pointon.			
EXHIBITION			
Event No. 6 Miss Matsuzaki	18	21	
v. Miss Yamaizumi	21	19	
Umpire: Mr. J. E. Stewart.			

Event No. 7 Presentation to Players

MATCH ANNOUNCER: Mr. T. A. Walsh.

REFEREE: Mr. A. Percy.



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Remember Them?

TANAKA AND OGIMURA WERE BRILLIANT

Fresh in the memories of many New Zealanders will be the tour in 1957 of the Japanese men T. Tanaka and I. Ogimura, then the two top men in world table tennis.

The play of Tanaka and Ogimura in their exhibition matches was fantastic. No other word could describe their play.

Tanaka and Ogimura were the first Japanese players to come to New Zealand. Misses K. Matsuzaki and K. Yamaizumi comprise the second team but on each occasion the manager has been the same man, Mr. H. Shimizu, a genial middle-aged man who is a lecturer at Chuo University. He provided a light touch in several matches on the 1957 tour when he appeared in match-play. In the Hutt Valley game he played the chairman of the Hutt Valley Association, Mr. A. R. Harding.

Japanese players have met with amazing success since their first entry into the world championships in 1951. In nine years of campaigning they have contested 35 titles and won 13 of them. For virtually a new nation in table tennis Japan has met with astounding success, but in Japan table tennis is one of several sports students at secondary schools have to choose from as compulsory subjects.

To gain a place in the All-Japan table tennis team is the equivalent of gaining a place in New Zealand's All Blacks.

Squads of Japanese players are selected annually to attend special training courses. They are the players in the top group or on the verge of it.

In the training camps the players battle it out for places in the Japan team. At the camps, the players are put through gruelling tests to sound out their physical fitness on the table. Physical training exercises are part of their training.

When here Tanaka and Ogimura stated that a Japanese player who could not hit the ball across the net 1000 times at pace without making a mistake did not measure up to requirements.

Those who saw Tanaka and Ogimura play in New Zealand and recalling those furious forehand exchanges in which the ball travelled at breath-taking speed as drives were swapped for minutes without making a mistake will appreciate the thoroughness of the Japanese.

Tanaka and Ogimura thrilled New Zealand audiences. They broke all previous attendance records and table tennis in this country benefited by some £2,000.

The cost of bringing Misses Matsuzaki and Yamaizumi to N.Z. is almost £2,000, which is passed on to associations in the form of guarantees. Hutt Valley had to guarantee £200 for its two matches. Add to that figure hall rental, which is quite substantial, entertainment, advertising and other costs and something like £400 has to be taken to make ends meet. The New Zealand Association takes 25 per cent of any profit.

Tours, however, are the best medium of advertising the sport. In this respect the New Zealand Association is to be congratulated for it rarely accepts anything but the top talent for New Zealand viewers.

It is perhaps significant when it realised that eight men who have won the world championship have played in New Zealand. Miss Matsuzaki is, however, the first woman world singles champion to play here. The only other visit to this country by a women's team was in 1953 when the celebrated England players the Rowe twins, Diane and Rosalind created tremendous interest. They were holders of the world doubles championship, but the singles title eluded them both.

The profits from their tour were the best until Tanaka and Ogimura came. Who could forget Tanaka and Ogimura. We would like to pay tribute to their wonderful play. Let's hope that tonight Misses Matsuzaki and Yamaizumi will thrill us as they did, bearing in mind, of course, that Tanaka and Ogimura were men, and our current visitors are of the fair sex, and accordingly make allowance.

Was Started in England

THE HISTORY OF TABLE TENNIS

The origin of Table Tennis is somewhat obscure, but it is thought its introduction was made in England around the year 1881, and that a Mr. James Gibb founded the sport under the name of "Gossima".

Since then Table Tennis has gone a long way and its character has changed considerably.

Records show that the game's name was changed to ping-pong, a name that is still commonly associated with the sport among people who have only a slight knowledge of it, around the year 1901, and that in 1902 a ping-pong association was formed in England. Championships were organized.

The game proved to be a temporary craze, the newly formed association collapsing and was not resuscitated until 1921, from which date come the first records of national championships.

The name of the sport remained as ping-pong, but difficulties arose when it was discovered that ping-pong was a registered trade name. The association was accordingly dissolved and reformed as the Table Tennis Association, being changed again in England to the existing title of "The English Table Tennis Association" in 1927.

While the game was on shaky foundations in the country of its birth it was a healthy child on the Continent, where its popularity spread wide and far and engulfed tremendous interest.

Continental countries got together and it came as no surprise when in January, 1926 the foundation of the International Table Tennis federation came about. The meeting was called by Dr. Olaf Lehmann of Germany and took place in Berlin.

Representatives of Austria, Hungary, England, Germany, Sweden, and Czechoslovakia attended the meeting, which decided to hold a European championship in London in December of that year, 1926.

Following the first European championships delegates confirmed the International Table Tennis Federation. The championships were immediately given world recognition, and Dr. Roland Jacobi and Miss Maria Mednyanszky, both Hungarians, were declared the first champions of the world.

It is on record that 64 competed in the men's singles, and 16 in the women's singles.

Equipment for Table Tennis has undergone many changes. Early bats were Vellum covered frames, followed by wooden rackets, later to be covered by cork, pimpled rubber, and in recent years sponge. Now pimpled rubber either covering the wood or a layer of sponge between it and the wood.

There is a record of a small India-rubber ball being used in the early stages, but this was replaced by the introduction of the celluloid ball at the beginning of the century. Thus for 60 years the substance of the ball has remained the same, though the weight of it has varied.

The method of scoring has provoked a lot of argument over the years. At one time the game was 50 up. The system of scoring in lawn tennis was strongly advocated, but after being defeated has not been revived in recent years. The existing method of 21 up either the best of three or five advantage sets of 21 up seems to have become a well established and popular method of scoring.

An alternative method of scoring which was commonly used throughout New Zealand was a one set of 31 up advantage. This system is still used in parts of New Zealand, though no longer recognised as a scoring method. Among those using it is the Wellington Association for several of its lower grades.

So vast has become world wide interest in Table Tennis that more than seventy nations now compete in world championships (which are held biennially)—a far cry from the first world championships in 1926-27.

Special Sub-Committee Appointed

For both the Hutt Valley v. Japan and N.Z. v. Japan matches the Hutt Valley Table Tennis Association appointed a special sub-committee to organise the fixtures.

Mr. R. V. Giles, who was the announcer for the Japan v. Hutt Valley match and in tonight's Test was appointed secretary-treasurer. He filled a similar position in 1957 on the sub-committee which ran the New Zealand championships in the Hutt Valley.

A vice-president of the Hutt Valley Association, Mr. Giles is a most efficient and capable officer. He has been tentatively appointed tournament manager for next year's New Zealand championships in the Hutt Valley.

Working with Mr. Giles in organising the Hutt Valley v. Japan and New Zealand v. Japan matches were Messrs T. A. Walsh, A. Percy, C. Anderson and V. R. Harding.

Mr. Walsh is the Hutt Valley closed champion and captain of the Hutt Valley representative team. He was formerly on the executive of the H.V.T.T.A.

Mr. C. Anderson is the husband of Mrs. M. J. Anderson who played for Hutt Valley against Japan and like Mr. Walsh is a Hutt Valley representative. He was treasurer of the association for two terms, and was on the associations executive in another period.

Mr. Percy has also served on the association's executive and he is chairman of the Empire Club. He was also on the N.Z. Association's executive for a time, and has given a lot of time and thought in the interests of table tennis.

Mr. Harding is a member of the New Zealand executive and chairman of the Hutt Valley Association for seven years, played representative table tennis for Hutt Valley in the late 1930's and late 1940's. He is president of the Empire Club.

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TOURIST'S MANAGER

Mr. H. Shimizu, who is managing Misses K. Matsuzaki and K. Yamaizumi on the current tour of New Zealand is paying his second visit to our country. He managed T. Tanaka and I. Ogimura on their 1957 visit here, and as a Director of the Japan Table Tennis Association we extend to him and Misses Matsuzaki and Yamaizumi a very cordial welcome.

The sporting public of New Zealand loves to see world champions in action, and we, along with all other fellow-countrymen, are grateful to the Japan Table Tennis Association for permitting Misses Matsuzaki and Yamaizumi to make this tour. We feel sure that Mr. Shimizu, as a leading figure in the administration of the sport in Japan, must have fully supported New Zealand's invitation to the Japanese women to come here this year. We are equally confident that Mr. Shimizu's experiences in New Zealand in 1957 contributed largely to the Japan Association accepting the New Zealand invitation on this occasion.

The Hutt Valley Table Tennis Association hopes that the present tour is as pleasant for Misses Matsuzaki and Yamaizumi and Mr. Shimizu as was the 1957 tour for the Japanese men.

MR. H. SHIMIZU.

In 1957 Mr. Shimizu delighted audiences with his near burlesque play. He was a popular figure and at all times was thorough in the interests of his country and his players

We again welcome Mr. Shimizu to the Hutt Valley.

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INTRODUCING THE NEW ZEALAND PLAYERS

(continued from page 6)

MISS N. DAVIS

against South, and for the last two years has won the New Zealand open mixed doubles championship. Neti is now 16 and is attending the Hukerenui District High School where she will sit her school certificate this year. From a dairy farm, running 60 cows, Miss Davis is the first Maori to play table tennis for New Zealand. She plays for the Whakapara Club, and has won numerous New Zealand junior titles.

THE FIRST TEST EVER

(Continued from page 7).

New Zealand is fortunate in having Misses Matsuzaki and Yamaizumi. Their play has given thousands great pleasure and through their magnificent play they have shown us what is required to lift our standard to that of the best in the world.

Their tour will also be of tremendous importance to the women players in the Dominion. It will give them the incentive to do better, and it will certainly draw more members to the game.

The H.V.T.T.A. takes this opportunity of thanking the Japan Table Tennis Association for sending the world's best to New Zealand, and to thank Misses Matsuzaki and Yamaizumi for their wonderful play, which was thoroughly enjoyed. Finally the association would thank Mr. H. Shimizu, their manager for the part he has played in this very successful tour.

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