

Rothmans

International Table Tennis



Auckland v Sweden

at the

AUCKLAND TABLE TENNIS STADIUM

99 GILLIES AVENUE, NEWMARKET

13TH JUNE, 1970

PRICE 10c

Our Swedish Visitors

GIANTS OF TABLE TENNIS

When Hans Alser and Kjell Johansson retained their World Doubles championship at Munich last year they became the first pair to win the title twice since the Second World War. This dynamic pair had first broken the Asian stranglehold on the event in their home city of Stockholm in 1967 (the championships are biennial), and it was fitting that they should do so, because the Swedes, almost entirely through the exploits of these two players, have been the giants of European table tennis for quite some time now.

Sweden had produced great players before Alser and Johansson. Tage Flisberg, left-handed wielder of one of the world's first sponge-rubber bats, was runner-up to Japan's Ichiro Ogimura in the 1954 World Championships, and five years later Bjornne Mellstrom reached No. 5 in the world ratings. But these were fleeting moments compared with the continued dominance of Alser and Johansson.

The great success story really began about ten years ago when Sweden, at great expense, obtained the coaching services of Ichiro Ogimura, the most famous name in Japanese table tennis. Ogimura introduced rigorous Japanese training methods to Sweden, and managed to raise the playing standard considerably without attempting to force the Japanese style on the European physique. Alser and Johansson, as an example, have completely different approaches to the game, and Sweden, unlike Russia, Yugoslavia and Hungary, has never produced a pen-grip player of note. But in each of the last four European Championships the Swedish men's team has stood on the winner's dais.

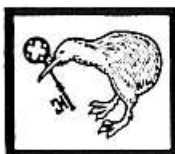
HANS ALSER

Now aged 28, Hans Alser scored his first really great singles victory in the 1962 European Championship. His toughest match was a semi-final bout with Eberhard Shoeler, a West German whose iron defence was later to make a mark on World and European table tennis comparable with that of Alser and Johansson.



"He's not worried... he's insured with NZI"

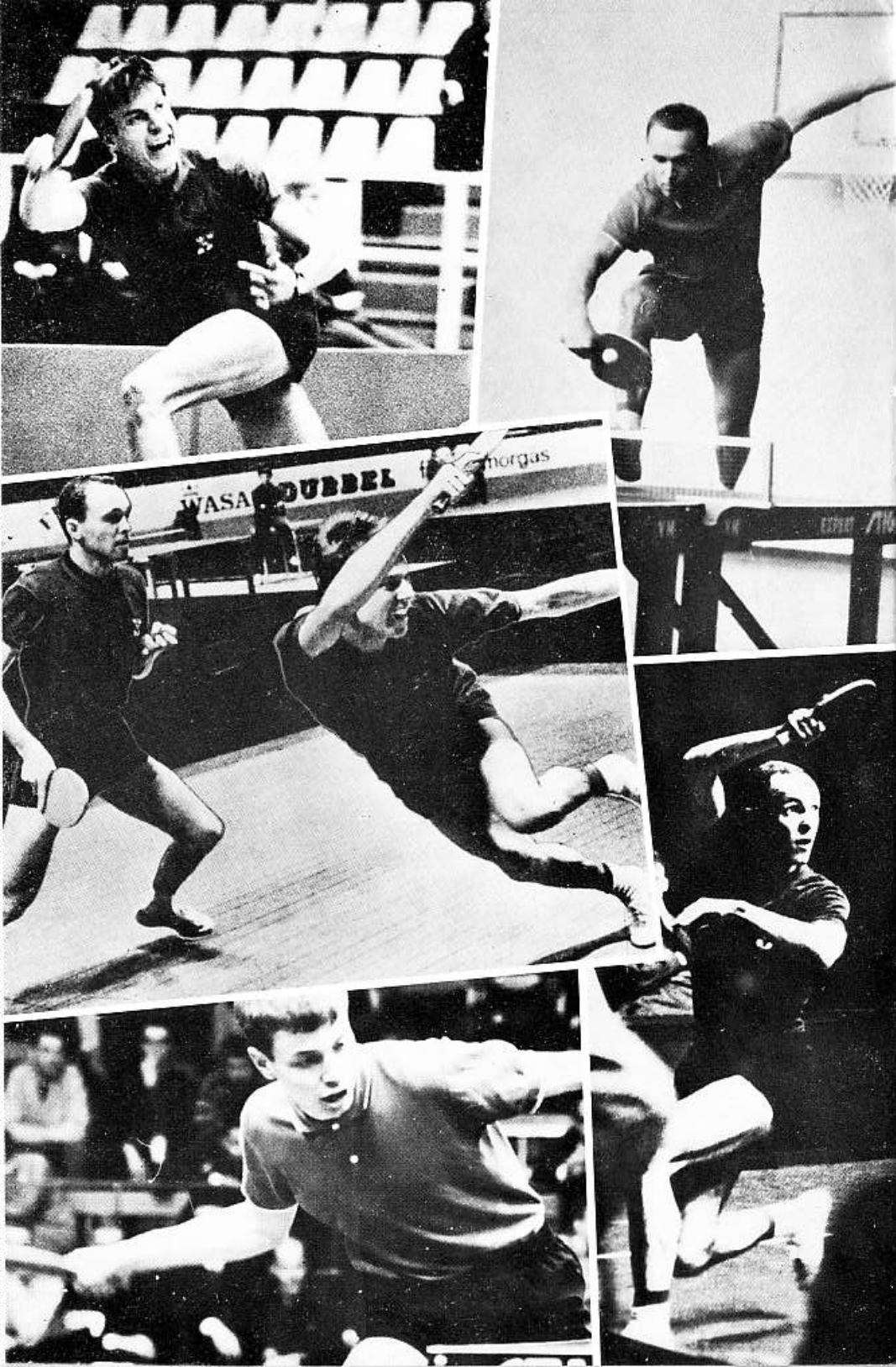
For ALL Your Insurances . . .



NZI

THE NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

"FIRST in Insurance"



The 1963 World Championships at Prague saw Sweden take third place behind China and Japan. Alser reached the quarter-final of the singles, where three-time champion Chuang tse-Tung was forced to produce his greatest form to beat Alser 21-18 in the fourth game. Many long-time followers of the game regard this as the greatest match they have ever seen.

Sweden again reigned supreme in the 1964 and 1966 European Championships, the latter tournament giving our visitors their only European doubles title to date.

Stockholm, 1967, brought Sweden's first-ever world title, as Alser and Johansson ploughed relentlessly through the men's doubles field. As the victories mounted so did the photographers, with sometimes as many as thirty surrounding the elated local heroes. Two Japanese pairs succumbed to the Scandinavian masters, until only the Russian pair Anatoly Amelin and Stanislav Gomozkov barred the way. Alser and Gomozkov dominated the game, but under the fierce determination of the Swedes and the unashamed partisanship of the crowd Amelin faltered a little, and the championship was Sweden's.

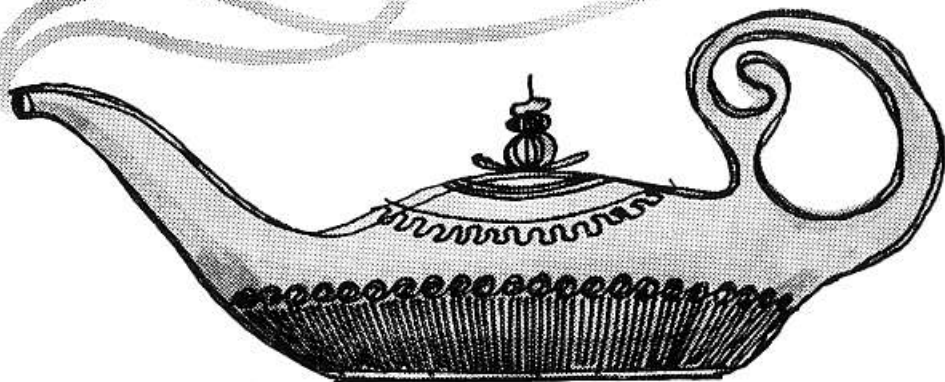
Great though the victory was, anyone could have been pardoned for thinking it was a once in a lifetime effort. But in Munich in 1969 Alser and Johansson joined the immortals by repeating the performance.

For some years Alser had stood in the shadow of Johansson as a singles player, but a few weeks ago in Moscow Alser gathered in his second European singles title — eight years after the first. Hans did have one close match, a second-round with whirlwind Hungarian pen-gripper Melevoy Karakosevic, which went to 21-18 in the fifth, but all his other victories were overwhelming.

Possessing as he does a complete mastery of all the strokes, combined with superb balance and agility, Alser has found himself in much demand as a coach. He has already undertaken some very lucrative assignments, and is reported to have accepted another in West Germany, after the 1971 World Championships.

KJELL JOHANSSON

Kjell (pronounce it "Shell") Johansson first burst on the world championship scene at Prague in 1963. Czech fans had great hopes for



AT YOUR COMMAND

We try a little harder to please our customers. Lots of emphasis on quick, efficient service and sound, skilled advice. Not too much talk about what nice people we are.

If you like the sound of our order of priorities, we would be delighted to tell you more

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED



4927

their own team that year, but in two dramatic hours their hopes were completely dashed by the agile and spectacular young Swedes. The Czechs had known that Alser would be hard to beat, but the machine-gun onslaught from the 16-year-old Johansson made even more impression than the calculating efficiency of Alser. Ably backed up by another 16-year-old, Carl Johann Bernhardt, the Swedes sent the locals crashing to a humiliating 1-5 defeat.

In 1964 Johansson gained his first European singles title, and repeated the success two years later, adding the doubles with Alser. In 1968 Kjell lost a very close semi-final to Janos Berzei, an acrobatic Hungarian chopper. That year the title went to Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia. This year Johansson again lost a close semi-final, to Istvan Korpa, a Yugoslav with a style similar to his own. This upset probably did Alser no harm, as it is unlikely that he would have found his countryman as easy a final opponent as he did Korpa.

Two aspects of Johansson's game that have never been in doubt are his courage and his sportsmanship. In the 1967 Swaythling Cup World teams championship (best of nine rubbers) Sweden trailed Czechoslovakia 3-4, and Johansson was down one game and 15-20 in the second to Jaroslav Stanek. Increasing the tempo of his attack Kjell won that game and the rubber, enabling Bernhardt to secure the match for Sweden.

In the singles that year Johansson was beaten by Gomoskov, a big disappointment to the Swedish fans, and no doubt to himself. The Russian's superb backhand upset the Swede, but the match was still in the balance when a shot of Johansson's clipped the edge of the table. The umpire awarded the point to Johansson, who then said that he thought the ball had hit below the top edge and asked that the point be given to the Russian. For this sporting gesture, which may well have cost him the match, Johansson was given a special award by the Swaythling Club, a world society of internationals with the interests of the game at heart.

Johansson, like Alser, is a director of the Stiga firm which produces some of the world's most popular bats, as well as most other items of table tennis equipment, including the famous Stiga Robot, a practice machine which can deliver table tennis balls with any desired speed, spin or direction.



LION
the man's brew

857

PROGRAMME

AUCKLAND: Geoff Jennings
Alan Tomlinson
Terry Quinn

SWEDEN: Hans Alser
Kjell Johansson

Event 1 SINGLES:

H. Alser v. *A.R. Tomlinson*
won by
Umpire *Alser* Winner *21.12 21.8*

Event 2 SINGLES:

K. Johansson v. *G. Jennings*
won by
Umpire *Johansson* Winner *21.8 21.15*

Event 3 DOUBLES:

Terry Quinn Hans Alser
Alan Tomlinson Kjell Johansson
won by
Umpire *Alser & Johansson* Winner *21.6 21.16*

Event 4 SINGLES:

H. Alser v. *G. Jennings*
won by
Umpire *Alser* Winner *21.7 21.15*

Event 5 SINGLES:

K. Johansson v. *A.R. Tomlinson*
won by
Umpire *Johansson* Winner *21.9 21.11*

Result of Contest:

Auckland *0* Sweden *5*

**selected by the
N.Z. table tennis
Association as
the official ball
for the 1970
season and N.Z.
Open Championships**



**the choice of world
Champions**

Sole N.Z. AGENTS-NEILL, CROPPER & CO. LTD, P.O. Box 9, AUCKLAND, 1.

THE AUCKLAND TEAM

ALAN TOMLINSON

Alan Tomlinson first represented Auckland as long ago as 1953, and has been a regular member of the side ever since. Representing Auckland in 1957 against the visiting Japanese he scored an amazing victory over Ichiro Ogimura, who had been world champion the year before. Alan also played for Auckland against the 1960 Australian team and the 1967 Englishmen, defeating both Geoff Jennings and Denis Neale to give these two touring captains their only defeats in this country. Last year Alan beat both Leigh Pascoe and Graeme Stirling in the Australian tourists' first match.

Tomlinson has also been a member of most New Zealand teams since 1957, including those which visited the world championships in 1961 and 1967. He captained the teams which defeated Australia in 1966 and 1969.

As well as winning ten Auckland Open singles titles Tomlinson has also won the national title on three occasions, and is the current holder of the New Zealand singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles.

Always a player who has relied greatly on a strong forehand attack, Tomlinson has in recent years attempted to introduce more variety into his game. In 1951, after the Peking world championships, he introduced the loop drive to this country.

GEOFF JENNINGS

New Zealanders first saw Geoff Jennings in action in 1960, when he and Michael Wilcox were the official Australian team which began the regular exchange of visits. Jennings' swashbuckling style and outstanding footwork appealed greatly to New Zealand spectators, who saw him lead his country to victory in every match, including a 3-2 win in the only test. Geoff himself lost only one singles match, a record which has not been surpassed by any tourist since.

The Australian captain's record was not entirely unexpected as he had performed creditably in the world championships of 1954 and 1956.

Returning to live in New Zealand in 1961, Geoff did not quite recapture the form of 1960, but was able to take the New Zealand doubles title with Alan Tomlinson in 1962. Probably his best year as a singles player was 1963, when he earned No. 3 ranking nationally.

SARNIAN BUILDERS LIMITED

(George Robinson, Proprietor)

For all kinds of building construction
consult the experts — Sarnian Builders

- HOME CONSTRUCTION
- SHOP FITTINGS
- RECONSTRUCTION
- ADDITIONS
- ALTERATIONS
- FREE QUOTATIONS

George Robinson guarantees top class
Workmanship. Phone him now.

SARNIAN BUILDERS LIMITED

23 SHERWOOD AVENUE,
TE ATATU PHONE TE ATATU 6663



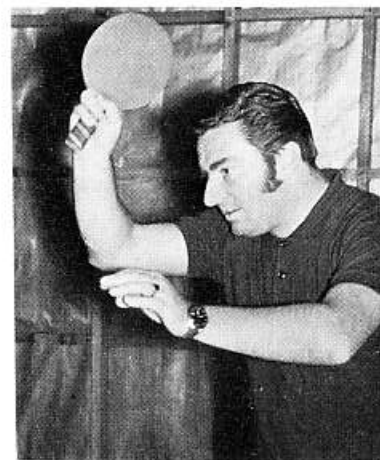
ALAN TOMLINSON



GEOFF JENNINGS



☆
TERRY QUINN



At the end of the 1965 season he returned to Australia, where he was ranked No. 3 in 1966, above such players as Murray Thomson and Leigh Pascoe. This was partly as a result of his defeat of both Bryan Foster and Alan Tomlinson when, at the hands of New South Wales, the New Zealanders suffered the only loss of their Australian tour.

Since 1968 Jennings has lived in Auckland, representing this association against Australia last year, and helping Auckland to victory in the Kean Shield national teams contest.

Jennings won the Australian singles title in 1955, and has won numerous national doubles and mixed doubles titles. Apart from the 1960 tour his best form has perhaps been reserved for Australia, where he is regarded as one of the two or three best players ever produced by that country.

TERRY QUINN

Although only 23 years old, Terry Quinn has been one of the personalities of Auckland table tennis for almost a decade. Outstanding as a junior, Terry won almost all the junior and secondary schools titles offering in the Auckland area. In 1962 he won the New Zealand under 16 doubles and mixed doubles titles and the North Island singles title. Two years later he was narrowly beaten in the New Zealand under 18 singles final by current national representative Terry O'Carroll.

In more recent years Terry has won the Hamilton and Bay of Plenty Opens as well as the Auckland Closed Championships. In 1968 he gained No. 9 ranking in New Zealand.

Despite these considerable successes Terry's full potential as a singles player has not yet been realised, but there is no doubting his ability as a doubles player. Those who saw Auckland's match against Australia last year will remember the spectacular brilliance he showed in helping to win the doubles. No other player in this country is so adept at killing short, low balls and spin services.

USE QUALITY EQUIPMENT . . .

YOU ALWAYS GET BETTER RESULTS



Insist on . . .

WILSONS

TABLE TENNIS BATS

AND TABLES



R. D. Wilson Ltd.

Penrose, Auckland 6