

OTHER CHAMPIONS' VIEWS ABOUT THE VISITORS:

Victor Barna - 5 times World Singles champion -

"The Japanese know as well as anybody else that their penholder grip is a severe handicap on the backhand wing, and the way in which they overcame this was a revelation. Every single movement had a purpose, and their footwork, agility, speed and stamina were just out of this world."

Richard Bergmann - 4 times World Singles champion -

"Is the penholder grip superior to the orthodox? No! The reason for the Japanese triumphs is a simple one. They are at the top of the tree because of their fitness, youth, stamina, fleetness of foot, agility and fine powers of concentration. They are worthy World champions."

The Rowe Twins - Twice World Doubles champions -

Of Ogimura: " 'Ishy', as we call him, is a great favourite of ours. We think he is the best of all the Japs with his incredibly fast footwork and vicious fore-hand hit. He is very intelligent, and his English is impressive if somewhat quaint."

Of Tanaka: "This young student saved up his best form for the Singles final at Utrecht (1955) and won the World Championship. He hits hard and causes his opponents a lot of trouble with his famous "sandwich" bat which, as we understand it, is made up of alternate layers of sponge, inverted pimple rubber, and soft rubber, one on top of the other."

Johnny Leach - Twice World Singles champion -

"In the Far East, the traditional practice of using chop-sticks for eating calls into play just the same kind of muscle action as the penhold style of table tennis play. The bat held penhold fashion, like the chop-stick, is just as much a natural extension of his hand to the Japanese as is the bat held with the orthodox grip to the European.

I believe Tanaka and Ogimura to be two of the World's greatest table tennis players - but I also believe they might be greater still playing with the orthodox Western grip and ordinary pimples rubber on their bats."

NELSON TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

presents

TOSHIKA TANAKA

and

ICHIRO OGIMURA

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JAPAN

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~~LONDON~~ NELSON

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Nelson Y.M.C.A. Stadium

Monday, 5th August, 1957

