

Features

The Hardbat Resurgence
The Classic Modern Age
Mid 1930's Hardbat Happenings
Evolution of the Hard Bat
Interview with Jim Butler
Who is to Judge?
Born Again
The Table Tennis Arms Race
Current Hardbat Ratings

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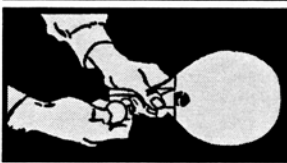
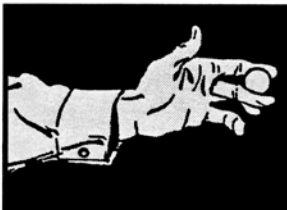
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See page 3...

Classic Hardbat

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The Hardbat Resurgence

WELCOME to the world of Classic Hardbat Table Tennis. The past year has seen an explosion of interest in hardbat. When the USATT decided to include a hardbat event at the 1997 Nationals, little did they know that 67-year-old Marty Reisman would enter, take the title in a thrilling final over the seemingly invincible hardbat titan Larry Hodges, and spark a movement.

Less than one year later, the rating list has grown to over 200 players. The USATT has now recognized hardbat officially, by creating a hardbat committee, offering good prize money in the U.S. Nationals hardbat event, and utilizing the hardbat rating list for seeding purposes.

Why, after 45 years of sponge domination, has hardbat suddenly become hot? Well, the hardbat game itself has some characteristics that will always make it uniquely appealing. Also, the emergence of the Information Superhighway has made it possible to organize an otherwise splintered group.

This magazine is dedicated to every facet of hardbat. We will try to incorporate a variety of material: current events, ratings, history, players, techniques, equipment, opinions, humor, rules, etc. Our goal is to put together exciting, provocative reading that reflects the diversity of styles among hardbat players.

If you have any materials you think would be interesting, or would like to write an article, a letter to the editor, or even if you have a dissenting opinion, please send it to *Classic Hardbat News*, P.O. Box 1053, Petaluma, CA 94953.

Subscriptions are \$12/year and should be purchased by sending a check made out to: Classic Table Tennis Association, 2523 Commons Trace, Augusta, GA 30909.

You can support Classic Hardbat Table Tennis by including a hardbat event in your next tournament. Send complete results for rating to Scott at the address above. There is still no rating fee. Finally, don't forget to visit the Classic Hardbat Web Page: <http://www.cs.sonoma.edu/~sgordon/hbhome.html> ❧ Scott Gordon, Editor