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Number 5.



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**TABLE
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DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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Vol. XI

April, 1961

No. 5

LOOKING BACK - AND FORWARD !

THE evening of Monday, 29th May, 1961 should prove quite interesting for it is on that occasion that our destiny as table tennis players in the Liverpool League will be settled for at least the next 12 months for it is on that date that the League is holding its Annual General Meeting.

As will be seen from elsewhere in this issue* several quite interesting proposals are being implemented no doubt by others of which we are not aware at the time of going to press.

The League's A.G.M. is normally quite a bright and provocative affair, but this year promises to be even more so and a bumper attendance would give just that little extra fillip to the proceedings.

No doubt the opportunity will be taken by many Clubs to express opinions on the matter which has most exercised our minds in the season just concluded, namely, that of Clubs "playing short" or alternatively failing to honour their commitments. This has been a subject which has raged through these pages over the past six months and one feels that the time has now come to face up to this problem once and for all.

Controversy, too, is likely to be introduced by the proposed premier division as well as by the Management Committee's recommendation regarding a new method of calculating the position in the League table other than by the recognised points system. There is also, we learn, a motion to reduce the size of the Management Committee and also to propose and elect a new President—all in all a full and interesting Agenda.

For our part, we hope that time will be found to discuss the *Digest*, the more particularly as its present size is too small to accommodate the amount of material "submitted for publication, as contributors to this issue will have guessed by the tremendous amount of sub-editing which has had to be done to their offerings. Even slashing contributions in this way has not saved certain regular features from the waste paper basket.

If you feel that the *Digest* is carrying out a useful function in the affairs of Liverpool Table Tennis come along to the A.G.M. and don't be afraid to say so. On the other hand, if you don't like, or disagree with, our ideas or methods, we should be only too happy to listen to, and if practicable, incorporate your ideas in future issues.

In conclusion, the Editor offers his sincere thanks and appreciation to our printers, correspondents (both regular and casual), and to Jim Green in particular, for the help and support which has been so gladly forthcoming during the season.

LEADING AVERAGES

Note—Whilst every care is taken in the compilation of these records no responsibility can be accepted for any errors which may occur.

* Denotes 75% or more sets played at Nos. 1 or 2.

DIVISION 1				DIVISION 6			
	P	W	%		P	W	%
*R. E. Gunnison (Booth Y.M.)	62	56	91.93	J. Brannagan (Wavertree Lab A)	38	36	94.73
*A. C. Taylor (Bath Street)	40	43	89.58	*P. Byrne (Wavertree Lab A)	55	51	92.07
V. Chesham (Bohemians)	58	51	87.93	*T. Owens (Wavertree Lab A)	62	56	90.32
*N. R. Jones (Linnets)	52	44	84.61	R. McIlvey (Wavertree Lab A)	40	35	87.50
R. Harrison (Rafflers)	42	33	78.57	*C. Grimes (Beauchair A)	50	43	86.00
H. Willcox (Balfour)	50	39	78.00	A. Cockerill (University A)	28	24	85.71
*N. R. Jones (Balfour)	58	42	72.77	*D. Buck (Bath Street C)	32	27	84.37
A. Jones (Rafflers)	34	27	77.14	*G. O'Keefe (St. Edwards)	44	37	84.09
R. Hetherington (Balfour)	60	45	75.00	*R. Myers (Cadwa C)	42	34	80.95
L. Davies (Balfour)	58	42	75.00	B. Willcox (Wavertree Lab A)	28	22	78.57
				*W. Wood (Crawfords)	50	28	76.00
DIVISION 2				DIVISION 7			
	P	W	%		P	W	%
*J. C. Sanddon (Waterloo Dk)	54	48	88.88	J. Horn (Fairlawn)	38	35	92.05
A. Byrne (Waterloo Dock)	26	47	89.92	*J. Brannagan (Wav Lab B)	36	32	88.88
*K. Chambers (Balfour A)	52	42	80.95	G. L. Taylor (Liverpool C.C. A)	44	37	84.09
*J. Higham (Oakhill A)	40	39	97.50	*G. Benson (Crawfords A)	38	23	60.52
J. Robinson (R.A.F.A.)	52	41	78.84	R. Conley (Crawfords A)	50	46	92.00
*L. T. Sille (Waterloo Dock)	54	42	77.77	*G. Moon (Eng. Electric B)	56	46	82.14
*J. Ball (Booth Y.M.C.A. A)	48	37	77.07	*L. Hogg (Wavertree Lab B)	42	34	80.95
*D. Rigby (Beauchair)	58	40	74.07	*E. Hand (Liverpool C.C. A)	42	33	78.57
*M. Wallace (Balfour A)	50	36	72.00	*A. V. Widdowson (Crawfords A)	58	44	78.57
R. Blackmore (Rafflers A)	58	40	71.42	F. Winstanley (Rafflers D)	50	39	78.00
DIVISION 3				DIVISION 8			
	P	W	%		P	W	%
*R. Eden (Cadwa A)	46	43	89.38	W. Miller (Brenks)	35	34	97.33
*F. Lacey (Linnets)	52	41	78.94	R. Handley (Brenks & Brenks A)	44	41	92.72
*J. R. Green (Linnets A)	60	43	71.66	B. Rawcliffe (Brenks)	44	41	92.72
D. Rodway (University)	48	37	77.07	*D. Spencer (Brenks)	40	38	95.00
P. Phycocy (Eng. Electric)	26	20	76.92	*A. Tolson (Wavertree Lab C)	26	22	84.61
L. Carter (Fairlawn)	52	39	75.00	D. Brundritt (University B)	30	25	83.33
*R. Hough (L.P.A.S.)	68	58	85.29	*J. Cartwell (Brenks & Brenks A)	40	32	80.00
A. Heague (L.P.A.S.)	62	53	85.48	*K. Guy (Brenks)	40	30	75.00
A. Campbell (Booth Y.M. B)	40	29	72.50				
*J. Brackley (Linnets A)	42	30	71.42				
DIVISION 4				WOMEN'S DIVISION			
	P	W	%		P	W	%
*D. Wildblood (Bohemians B)	38	34	89.47	*M. Jones (Bohemians)	52	52	100.00
*I. F. Kilshaw (Waterloo Dk A)	48	41	85.41	*M. Willcox (Bohemians)	54	52	95.14
S. Wilkinson (Selton)	24	46	82.14	*M. Francis (Oakhill)	52	46	88.46
*D. Cohen (Victoria Park D)	39	25	63.93	*R. Boyle (Bibbys)	46	39	84.78
A. Watson (Selton)	52	43	82.69	J. A. Crafter (Cadwa)	52	43	82.69
J. Dalton (Bohemians B)	44	36	81.72	J. Newell (Bath Street)	52	40	76.92
*G. Cope (Victoria Park D)	20	16	80.00	*M. Harris (Linnets)	50	38	76.00
M. Francis (Miss) (Oakhill B)	22	17	77.27	*E. Loughrey (Rafflers)	50	38	76.00
W. Leeming (Linnets)	56	43	76.78	I. Crafter (Cadwa)	52	39	75.00
*W. R. Crafter (Cadwa B)	28	21	75.00	*B. Taylor (Bath Street)	52	39	75.00
*K. Jones (Linnets B)	20	15	75.00				
DIVISION 5				WOMEN'S DIVISION DOUBLES			
	P	W	%		P	W	%
N. Challoner (Wavertree Lab)	58	53	91.38	*M. Jones and			
*P. Hurworth (Wavertree Lab)	44	41	92.72	M. Willcox (Bohemians)	14	24	100.00
E. Moran (Wavertree Lab)	50	45	90.00	L. Jenkins and			
*N. Tudor (Booth Nalgo)	34	30	88.23	L. Upton (Orrall)	19	17	89.47
*F. Farquharson (Way Lab)	60	52	86.66	P. Lawrance and			
*L. Lewis (Liverpool C.C.)	52	43	82.29	J. A. Crafter (Cadwa)	14	11	78.57
D. Inge (Wavertree Baptists)	38	31	81.57	B. Black and			
N. Barcoah (Nalgo)	40	31	77.50	I. Crafter (Cadwa)	26	20	76.92
K. Casselman (Mrs.) (Rafflers C)	42	31	73.52	*A. Bell and			
R. Tyler (Liverpool C.C.)	50	36	72.00	M. Cox (Wavertree Lab)	24	18	75.00
				T. Newell and			
				E. Eilam (Bath Street)	12	9	75.00
				*M. Harris and			
				L. Wynne (Linnets)	24	17	70.83

All the averages exclude those score cards not received by the Fixture Secretary by noon on Monday, 3rd April.

COMMENTS ON THE AVERAGES

THE only player in the League - with a 100% record is Moya Jones in the Women's Division, a feat achieved also in doubles formation with Muriel Wilcox. In the 2nd Division she proved easily the most successful woman player in the League, with a record of 31 wins from 46 sets played—more often than not at No. 2.

The figures pinpoint the great advances made by Judy Crafter and Robert Eden, of Cadwa. Master Eden is way ahead of all others in Division 3, having played every match at No. 1, while Judy is the most successful 3 or 4 in the Women's Division at singles, and shows 3rd (with Pauline Lawrenson) in the Doubles section. What is not shown is that she played in partnership with Gloria Burns seven times without defeat before teaming up with Pauline. There cannot have been many more impressive debuts in the Women's Division.

But one of the season's biggest surprises is that of the performance of a laddie named John Horn, of Fairlawn C, who topped his division with 92.05%. The next member of his team came in 20 places later. A special Oscar for this one.

But among the men, there can be only one real Oscar—for Ralph Gunnion, only three years out of the Juniors, who topped the whole League at over 90%, and suffered only six defeats in doing it.

A New Division ?

RALPH GUNNION informs us that at the forthcoming A.G.M. Bootle Y.M.C.A. will propose:—

(a) A Premier Division containing 10 teams be added to the Liverpool League.

(b) In this division matches will be played 3-a-side, there being 9 singles and 1 doubles as in the Lancashire and Cheshire League.

(c) The bottom two teams in the premier division would have to apply for re-election, while any team in the Liverpool League may apply to be elected in their place.

The point which must be emphasised about these proposals is that the premier division is an addition to the present league, which will remain unaltered. Membership of the premier division could be offered in the first place to the top 10 teams in the 1st Division. This would mean that a team like Balfour would have a first team in both the premier and first divisions, as PLAYERS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY IN NORMAL LIVERPOOL LEAGUE 5 A-SIDE MATCHES IN ADDITION TO PREMIER DIVISION GAMES.

The effect of these proposals would be to give the better players in Liverpool the intense competition they need to raise the standard of Liverpool table tennis while leaving the league virtually unaltered.

This' method is used in other parts of the country and the Birmingham League which is the biggest in the country has been using it successfully for many years

SITUATIONS VACANT

REQUIRED for early September—Correspondents for leading Table Tennis Magazine. No salary. No expenses. No car. No blonde secretary. Otherwise highly desirable situation for lady or gentleman able to write in simple English. Spelling not essential. Golden opportunity for individual wishing to make impact on Table Tennis world. Vacancies exist for Divisional Correspondents to make regular contributions', and for Special Correspondents to cover Cup Finals, Tournaments etc. All applications will be gladly received by Editor, "Table Tennis Digest". Warning—applications will be dealt with on a strictly "First come, first served" basis. DON'T DELAY—APPLY TODAY.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

AND SO TO THE FUTURE

(by J.McCaig)

Lancashire and Cheshire League
AND SO TO THE FUTURE

ONE must, at this time of the year and at the end of a quite successful season, give thought to next term and the prospects of repeating this season's successes, and, of course, to enquire who, if anybody, is going to challenge for places in the various league teams.

We have between nine hundred and a thousand registered players and of those who have opted to play for this league there are less than a dozen amongst the men who readily come in for consideration, and rather fewer in the ladies' department.

The question is, will these same players command their places as easily next season, or are we to see one or two players really make
For the good of Liverpool table tennis, I think it would be a good thing if there was this competition.

The day when we can again put a player of Ken Hyde's qualities' on a table to represent us, will indeed be a happy one, but alas! this seems as far away as ever. The one consolation, I feel, is that Manchester apart, we can hold our own with any other side in Lancashire—both men and women—which is not so bad after all.

Thank you

In conclusion, may I once again on behalf of the League, express my grateful thanks to the officials of the following clubs, who, as ever have been so ready and willing to stage inter-city matches, and without whose help it would not be possible to run the city teams:— Balfour, Bath Street, Beauclair, Bibby's, Bootle Y.M.C.A., Bohemians, C.A.D.W.A., Lewis's, L.P.A.S., Liverpool Y.M.C.A., Oakhill, Orrell, Wavertree Labour, Victoria Park.

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From the Secretary's Desk

TWO RESOLUTIONS

(bv John McKim)

I AM taking advantage of the kind offer from the Editorial Board, and using this space to outline to you the rule amendment proposals which the Management Committee are placing before you at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Monday, 29th May. There will be two main proposals, one dealing with finance, the other with the actual playing of the game.

FINANCES STRAINED

Last year the E.T.T.A. imposed a levy of 6d. per player on all registered players, a cost to the League of approximately £20. As the increase was not passed on to you, our accounts will show a substantial loss for the season.

This year the rule amendments down for discussion at the E.T.T.A. Annual General Meeting include one which, if carried, will increase our affiliation fees to the E.T.T.A. by approximately 85% (approx. £25).

Your Chairman and myself attended the A.G.M. last year, and in our opinion this rule change stands a good chance of getting through. Even if it does not, an alternative proposal to impose the 6d. levy again this year is certain to be carried. We feel that this increase is too large for the League to carry without an increase in our own fees (despite our policy of pegging back costs' and working on capital), and we are therefore proposing that the registration fee be increased from 6/6d. to 7/- in order to recover part of the additional cost involved.

SETS-NOT POINTS-TO COUNT

The second major rule change we intend to place before you is to change the present system of awarding 2 points for a win and 1 for a draw, and instead award 1 point for each set won. If, therefore, a team wins 8-2, it receives 8 points

and its opponents 2. We feel that there are certain points in favour of this change as follows :—

(a) A team winning 10-0 will get a better return for their efforts than a team which just wins 6-4. At present they both get 2 points.

(b) The interest will be maintained in the match to the last set, for each set won means an extra point. At present, a great deal of the interest has left for those players playing the last sets after one team has reached 6.

(c) The new system will penalise Clubs for playing short for a missing player will cost his team 2 points, not just 2 sets. I think this is an important point. At present a team can turn up short and still come away with maximum points from the match, and my personal opinion is that only by getting at the playing record of teams playing short can we put a stop to playing short. Surely no Club is going to repeatedly select a player who is costing them 2 vital league points by failing to turn up.

TEAMS DROPPING OUT

Our third rule alteration is to alter the rule regarding the expunging of records of teams which drop out during the season. Our alteration will allow the record of a team to be expunged no matter at what time the season it drops out, thus avoiding the awarding of 10-0 walkovers to teams who have still to play the offending Club.

Quite a few other rule amendments have been received from Clubs', and the meeting should be interesting, and long, so please, Club Representatives, turn up on time. The earlier we start, the earlier you get away.

Cup Highlights

NONE of this year's Cup Finals caused much danger of high blood pressure among the spectators as the following results clearly indicate :—

READMAN

Balfour 8 Anfield 2

HYDE

Wavertree Lab. A 7 Crawfords' 3

RUMJAHN

Wavertree Labour 9 L.P.A.S. 1

In the Readman Cup the main interest centred in the first 5 sets of the evening, when steady play by N. Jones, L. Davies, R. Hetherington and H. Wilcox took Balfour to a 4-1 lead (R. Gunnion having claimed the scalp of L. Mulholland in the meantime). From then onwards the proceedings were purely academic to the extent that our Correspondent at the match confessed afterwards' that his two main impressions at its conclusion were the demonstration by Reg Hetherington of his sold worth to the Balfour Club, and the set between G. Birch and H. Wilcox which at the best might merit the term "dour, defensive struggle", but under different situations might have qualified for something rather less complimentary.

The Rumjahn Cup Final on the other hand was quite a colourful affair, despite the overwhelming superiority of the Wavertree side as reflected in the ultimate score. The massed ranks of the Wavertree spectators, the mystery of the switched ball, the ceremonial filling of the Cup by the winners—and its subsequent emptying by the losers—all combined to make this match a festive occasion to which the players responded in good form. There was a poignant

little ceremony at its conclusion when Ron Rumjahn handed to the winner's Captain the Cup presented by his father whose sad passing away had taken place only a short time previously.

The Wavertree Labour Club recorded a second success when its 'A' team beat Crawfords by 7 sets to 3 in the Hyde Cup Final, despite playing rather below the form of which they are capable. Indeed, had not Crawfords literally thrown two sets away when in commanding positions, the result might conceivably have been very different—one cannot in a Cup Final afford to miss sitters with mighty uncontrolled swipes and expect to get away with it. Nor does it pay to serve off, under, and round the table even when leading .19/14 in the second, having won the first game. Tactics such as these could lead only to the inevitable—as was the case in this match. These points apart, there was much about the play which one could applaud, especially the atmosphere in which it was played. How nice to see players on both sides mixing in an easy informal atmosphere during the proceedings and yet contriving to go on the table without the keenness or will to win impaired to any extent. Well done both teams.

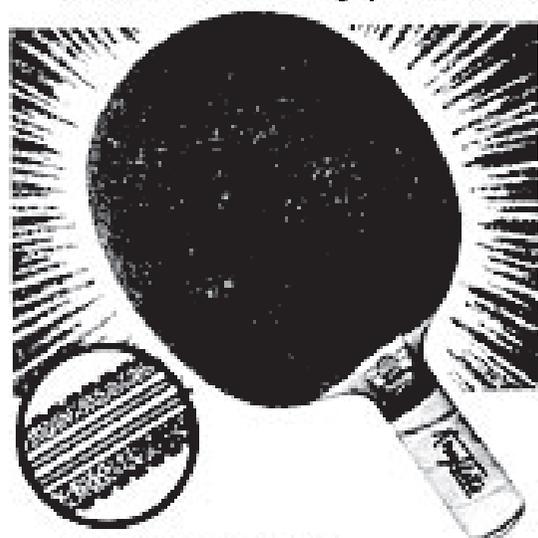
There remains only to comment on the Forrest Cup, about which probably very few people have heard. Originally presented for competition between the Regions, it is now the subject of an annual match between the Liverpool League and the Business Houses League. This year the Liverpool League, represented by A. Lawson, E. Klein, L. Davies and Mrs. Reynolds became the holders for the succeeding 12 months when they overcame the Business Houses by 6-3, It is a condition of selection for the Liverpool team that none of the players chosen shall have played in a representative match during the current season.

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AROUND THE DIVISIONS

(by our Special Correspondents)

Division	1						
	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Rafters	26	20	3	3	177	83	43
Balfour	26	20	4	2	171	89	42
Bootle YM ..	26	18	5	3	166	94	39
Liverpool YM	26	17	5	4	159	101	38
Bohemians ..	26	16	4	6	157	103	38
Linnets	26	9	10	7	126	134	25
Anfield	26	10	12	4	135	125	24
Victoria Park	26	9	13	4	123	137	22
Oakhill	26	10	14	2	118	142	22
L'pool YM A	26	7	15	4	117	143	18
Bath Street .	26	6	14	6	110	150	18
Litherland ...	26	7	15	4	100	160	18
Victoria Pk A	26	6	17	3	109	151	15
Waterloo Pk .	26	0	24	2	52	208	2

OUR congratulations to new League Champions, Rafters, and commiserations to Balfour. Every credit must be given to Rafters for taking the chance offered to them and it must be recorded that they beat Balfour in one of the last matches of the season. Dave Ferguson, Ron and Peter Rumjahn, and Ray Harrison all turned in consistent performances despite the burden of carrying various reserves in the second half of the season.

It is difficult to say anything constructive about Balfour's position, but they certainly lost a lot of sympathy for their cause by again playing one short in their last match against Liverpool Y.M.C.A. It is not fair to condemn a club for the repeated failings of one player and the answer must obviously be in the hands of their own club committee.

Bath Street made a successful bid for safety by winning their last three matches. Beating Waterloo Park and Linnets quite convincingly, they then had to meet Oakhill. And what a match that turned out to be! Two Oakhill players failed to turn up at all and a third player was actually on the injured list! Despite this Bath Street still had to battle hard to win the necessary two events of the six that were played.
K.J.

Division	2						
	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Waterloo Dk	26	22	2	2	195	65	46
Rafters A .	26	19	4	3	165	95	41
Bootle YM . A	26	18	5	3	159	101	39
Beauclair .	26	18	6	2	169	91	38
Balfour A .	26	17	7	2	164	96	36
Victoria Pk . B	26	13	8	5	138	122	31
Bohemians A	26	13	9	4	150	110	30
RAFA ...	26	12	10	4	141	119	28
Lucem ...	26	8	17	1	104	156	17
Oakhill A .	26	4	16	6	95	165	14
Bath St. A	26	5	18	3	98	162	13
Cadwa ...	26	5	19	2	86	174	12
Anfield A .	26	4	19	3	81	180	11
Litherland A	26	2	20	4	76	184	8

WATERLOO DOCK and Rafters 'A' go up, and Anfield 'A' and Litherland 'A' go down. In twelve words one sums up the tangible results of 26 weeks play, but there is a lot more to it than that. There was the last minute rally in Bold Street, where the arrival of A. Heyes made just the difference to Lucem, and with five wins from the last five matches', they boosted their points total from 7 to 17. Looking at last month's tables, Lucem appeared doomed, and I said so. Apologies to Jim Rimmer and his merry men (and woman) for having written you off too early. I eat my words, and am glad to do so after this impressive revival. Never say die till you're dead! Waterloo Dock have led the field from the start, and coasted home by a clear five points, but not so Rafters who have fought it out with Bootle Y.M. and Beauclair all season, and at the finish two points covered the three. I guess Joe Lovelady is a happier man now than he was a couple of weeks ago.

Luckless Anfield 'A' and Litherland 'A' will feel more at home in the 3rd Division, but somehow I feel that Anfield may be back with us very soon. A little luck and a good start next season may well set them on the return journey, but I feel that very unsettled teams down at Litherland might hold up any chances they may have for a quick return.
J.G.

	Division			3			
	P	W	L D	F	A	P	
University . . .	26	22	0 4	181	79	48	
L.P.A.S.....	26	19	3 4	168	92	42	
Fairlawn	26	19	5 2	177	83	40	
Rafters B	26	15	6 5	147	113	35	
Bootle YM B	26	15	11 0	143	117	30	
Linnet A ...	26	14	11 1	141	119	29	
Linacre	26	11	10 5	145	115	27	
Eng. Electric	26	10	11 5	135	125	25	
Balfour B . . .	26	11	12 3	129	131	25	
L'pool YM B	26	10	12 4	132	128	24	
Cadwa A ...	26	5	15 6	111	149	16	
Victoria Pk C	26	6	19 1	93	167	13	
Harold House	26	3	19 4	71	189	10	
Wtrloo Pk A	26	0	26 0	47	213	0	

PROMOTION and relegation problems finally settled— congratulations and commiserations to all concerned—we can now reflect on some statistical results which the matches have produced.

It is pleasing to note that two teams who finished in the lower half of the table contained two of the Divisions most consistent players. Robert Eden, of Cadwa, 'A', finished the season with the top average, playing most of his games at number one. This, in his last year as a junior, is indeed a very creditable performance. It will be no surprise to find him a regular in Cadwa's first team next season.

A most successful season has also been recorded by Arthur Roberts, Liverpool Y.M. 'B' Captain. He, also, has achieved his high average playing in the number one position in most matches and recent wins include two against University,, beating Stoddart and Prosser, and two against Linnets 'A', beating Brackley and Crowther.

Young Michael Dean, of Cadwa, deserves to be complimented on his encouraging performances this season and his future progress will be watched with interest. His battle against Joyce Randall, of Balfour 'B', will no doubt be recorded as the closest event in our Division. Dean managed to win 27-25. 20-22, 24-22.

Finally, a special word of congratulation to the Police team who, in addition to winning one of the promotion places, reached the Final of the Rum-jahn Cup. Although they were overcome by the strong

Wavertree Labour side in the Final, it was a great achievement even to reach so far in the Tournament.

B.L.

	Division					4	
	P	w	L D	F	A	P	
Sefton Gen.	26	23	1 2	183	77	48	
Lussac	26	20	4 2	165	95	42	
Bohemians B	26	19	4 3	178	82	41	
Victoria Pk D	26	15	7 4	148	112	34	
Wtrloo Dk A	26	11	7 8	148	112	30	
Anfield B . . .	26	11	11 4	137	123	26	
Linnet B	26	12	12 2	137	123	26	
L.P.A.S. A	26	10	12 4	125	135	24	
Cadwa B	26	9	14 3	125	135	21	
Oakhill B	26	6	13 7	114	146	19	
Balfour C . . .	26	7	14 5	108	152	19	
Bath Street C	26	8	16 2	113	147	18	
Litherland B	26	4	20 2	71	189	10	
Bootle YM C	26	2	22 2	68	192	6	

SEFTON have won the Division by six clear points from Lussac, and have proved more than impressive from the outset. Stan Wilkinson and Alan Watson have been their most successful players, but it is to the team as a whole that congratulations should be offered. Let's see you do the same in the 3rd next season.

Lussac, however, dropped a point or two when it hurt most, and were chased home by an inspired Bohemians 'B' team, but they got there by the narrow margin of one point at the end. Disappointing to Mike Crawford's boys, but highly gratifying to Harry Holmes and Co. There is a rumour that Lussac will disband. While we hope not, if such should be the case the friends of Lussac hope to see the players' next year, even if wearing strange colours.

Litherland 'B' and Bootle 'C' finished at the tail end, the penalty for which is relegation, but with the horde of youngsters down at Bootle, they may well be back here very quickly.

Victoria Park 'D' and Linnets 'B' paid the penalty for being "junior" teams in their clubs by being robbed of players for higher teams on many occasions, and one wonders what the final positions would have been had they been allowed to play a settled five every week. It is the unfortunate fact, however, that lower teams always have this extra opponent to fight—the higher team.

Around the Divisions — continued

Still, taken by and large, it has been a good season in the 4th. The major black spot on the season has been the number of times teams have played short, or have given walk-overs, and a decided effort MUST be made to eliminate this practice. It would not be a bad idea if everyone decided to claim sets at 8 p.m., which would very soon discourage the latecomers. G.

Division				5			
	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wvrtree Lab.	24	23	1	0	207	33	46
Liverpool CC	24	20	2	2	181	59	42
Rafters C . . .	24	17	6	1	150	90	35
Fairlawn A . .	24	15	7	2	154	86	32
Wvrtree Bap	24	14	8	2	148	92	30
Liverpool PO	24	13	7	4	137	103	30
Bohemians C	24	11	10	3	123	117	25
Nalگو.....	24	9	12	3	110	130	21
Telecomms . .	24	6	14	4	96	144	16
Bootle Nalگو	24	5	15	4	87	153	14
Domestic Mis.	24	6	18	0	76	164	12
Co-op	24	3	19	2	76	164	8
Wtrloo Pk B	24	0	23	1	15	225	1

WITH the 1960/61 season now over, there seems very little left for me to write, except to congratulate the Wavertree Labour team on a very fine season, and the Liverpool Cricket Club in finishing very convincingly in second place.

Since the last issue of the Digest, the Labour Club have been beaten by Bohemians 'C', but the fact that two reserves from Wavertree Labour's 'B' and 'C' teams were used in this game won't give Bohemians the full satisfaction they deserve. S. Stirzaker and T. Gee were the heroes of this match, Stirzaker beating Hurworth in straight games (Hurworth's second league defeat in two years) and Gee inflicting on Moran one of his rare defeats-.

The top of the individual averages table for Division 5 is, as expected, dominated by Wavertree Labour players, but an interesting fact emerges in that the top player, apart from the Wavertree boys, comes from a team who are in a lowly position. I refer, of

course, to N. Tudor, of Bootle Nalگو, who has played all his games in the No. 1 position. When one takes his advancing years into consideration as well, this is certainly a very creditable achievement.

It is unfortunate that Bootle Nalگو have missed so many games this season due to team difficulties. If this were not so, I'm sure their final League position would be very much better. Even so, this season must surely be the best they have had for some years'.

R.McE.

Division				6			
	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wav. Lab. A . .	26	25	0	i	222	38	51
St. Edwds OB	26	20	4	2	174	86	42
Fairlawn B . .	26	18	5	3	167	93	39
Beauclair A . .	26	16	5	5	176	84	37
L'pool YM C	26	14	6	6	161	99	34
Crawfords . . .	26	14	7	5	156	94	33
University A	26	13	11	2	144	116	28
LP AS B	26	9	11	6	125	135	24
Bath Street C	26	9	13	4	128	132	22
Stanley House	26	7	16	3	94	166	17
Cadwa C	26	6	17	3	103	157	15
Beauclair B . .	26	4	18	4	78	182	12
St. Eds. OB A	26	3	23	0	51	209	6
Anfield C . . .	26	2	24	0	41	219	4

WAVERTREE LABOUR have finished this season as we all expected they would—champions of Division 6 and Hyde Cup winners to boot. Next term, Division 5 teams will find themselves hard put to keep them from gaining promotion again. .

Other teams where the accent has been on youth have not done too well, whereas teams like Beauclair, St. Edwards, Crawfords and Fairlawn have enjoyed a season which brought them reasonable placings. In the latter group of teams we find a great deal of reliance placed on the experience and craft of players' who would be classed either as veterans or near veterans.

Beauclair 'A' earned a very good home point by drawing with Wavertree Labour, a result which deserves special mention in view of the Labour Club's all-conquering season.

Individual performances of special note, were, I think, the defeat of Ron McEvoy, of

Wavertree, by G. Benson, of Crawfords, and the two performances by Mal Coltman, of Y.M.C.A., when promoted in the order against Wavertree. On each occasion he took Owen to 19 in the third before losing.

In the main, our Division has not thrown up a great many young players who look likely to improve, exceptions, of course, are the Cadwa players, Myers, McPherson and Miss P. Hewitson, all three im-proved with each game and did better than was expected of them.

Next season I hope to see more youngsters proving themselves worthy of a high place in the Divisional averages. J.T.

	Division				7			
	P	W	L	D	F	A	P	
L'pool C.C.	A	26	22	3	1	190	70	45
Wav. Lab.	B.	26	21	3	2	169	91	44
Rafters D		26	16	8	2	156	104	34
Nalgo A . .		26	12	8	6	141	119	30
Eng. Elec.	A	26	13	11	2	137	123	28
Eng. Elec.	B	26	10	9	7	134	126	27
Fairlawn C		26	12	11	3	129	131	27
Linnet C .		26	9	12	5	126	134	23
Bootle YM	D	26	10	13	3	117	143	23
Tech. Studs.		26	5	17	4	99	161	14
Lewis's . .		26	4	20	2	89	171	10
Crawfords	B	26	3	22	1	69	191	7
Oakhill C .		26	2	23	1	63	197	5

CRAW FORDS 'A' made sure of finishing top in Division 7 when they beat Wavertree Labour 'B' in the last match but one.

Wavertree got off to a good start when L. Hogg won the first set against A. Thatcher but then A. V. Widdowson beat A. Tolson to make things level. Crawfords then went to 4-1 up when R. Conley, G. Benson and W. Eymond beat B. Wilcox, H. Wilcox and A. Tolson respectively. Although T. Brannagan beat Widdowson to make it 4-2. Thatcher and Conley then beat B. Wilcox and H. Wilcox to win the match for Crawfords. Hogg and Brannagan won their other sets against Eymond and Benson to make the final score 6-4.

Liverpool Cricket Club 'A' slipped up by losing twice late on to English Electric 'A' for whom A. Brown and J. Coleman won both their sets, and also to Linnets 'C' with F. Crowther, A. Barnard and Miss M. Harris winning two-sets each. By beating Crawfords 'A' in the last match, however, Liverpool C.C. just beat Wavertree La-

bour for second place by one point.

Oakhill 'C' and Crawfords 'B' finished at the bottom of the Division. Crawfords tried hard but lost their last three matches all by 6-4, while Lewis's who finished only 3 points above them were very glad of a couple of late wins to keep them up.

Tech. Students did not have a very good season but managed to keep getting a few points to keep out of trouble. G.M.

	Division				8			
	P	W	L	D	F	A	P	
Brenka . .		24	23	0	1	218	22	47
Brenka A .		24	19	3	2	179	61	40
University	B	24	16	5	3	153	87	35
Wtrloo Pk	C	24	13	7	4	142	98	30
Colonsay .		24	13	8	3	149	91	29
Wav. Lab.	C	24	11	11	2	125	115	24
L'pool C.C.	B	24	10	12	2	129	111	22
Litherland	C	24	11	13	0	113	127	22
Linnet D .		24	8	15	1	105	135	17
L YC A		24	7	14	3	104	136	17
Harold Hse	A	24	5	17	2	58	182	12
Sefton A .		24	5	18	1	61	179	11
Litherland	D	24	2	20	2	24	216	6

BRENKA have won this Division (or what is left of it) and are worthy winners. However, they received one shock at the tail end of the season when Harry Nelson, of Colonsay, beat their No. 1, D. Spencer, who till then had only lost two sets all season. Which seems to indicate that Colonsay might well have been up at the top had it not been for the Brenka "steamroller". Still, Brenka have more than earned their promotion, and should prove strong enough to go much higher in the League before they find a level. There is some doubt as I write as to who will accompany them into the 7th. Score cards are STILL awaited by the Fixture Secretary, and until these results are known one cannot say with certainty whether it will be University 'B' or Brenka 'A'. May I remind team captains that the Fixture Secretary gets results from score cards'. He has broken his crystal ball, so without score cards there can be no League tables.

Around the Divisions — continued

Strange but true. However, either University or Brenka 'A' will do well in the 7th, and I am sure that Colonsay would have proved a tough nut a division higher. For the rest, the 'D' team of Linnets, the 'C' teams of Waterloo Park and Wavertree Labour, and the Cricket

Club's 'B' team can only expect to gain experience for higher teams in their own clubs rather than divisional honours. G.

N.B.—These notes were compiled before the final league tables were complete.

THE "CLOSED" CHAMPIONSHIPS

(by Ray Hebson)

“HOW does he come to be in our tournament?”

This is the question which was being asked on the first evening of this year's Closed League Championships after realisation had suddenly dawned that Harry Spiers, of Birmingham, was in our midst and had defeated Arthur Taylor in the quarter-final of the Men's Singles. I hasten to add that the question did not come from Arthur; he accepted his defeat—his first in this event since 1957—as a true sportsman. Harry is, of course, our Merseyside Open Veteran Champion, and having recently become a registered player of our League (he plays for Liverpool Y.M.C.A.) he is now eligible to play in the Closed also.

The rest of the Men's Singles play, both on Wednesday and Thursday, was comparatively uneventful. The Consolation Singles event (for players eliminated in the first round of the Men's Singles) was won by Roy Jones, of Linnets, the runner-up being P. S. Hurworth, of Wavertree Labour.

On Friday the only reigning champion to be de-throned was John Ball, who was despatched by R. Eden, of Cadwa, in the semi-final of the Junior Singles. In the Men's Doubles Eric Davies and Bill Pierce, both of Linnets, fought their way through to the finals, as did Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, of Bath Street, in the Mixed Doubles. The noticeable features of Friday evening's play were the length of time taken by many players to arrive at the table after being called and the evasion by certain gentlemen of their umpiring obligations. Due to these factors the play finished very late by comparison with the two previous evenings.

CONGRATULATIONS LADIES!

The programme for Saturday afternoon was heavy due to the large entry from the ladies (almost every regular player in the Women's Divisions had entered) and after Friday's experience it was expected that events would run behind schedule and delay the start of the evening proceedings. However, it was not to be; the co-operation from the ladies and veterans' was so good that the programme was completed with nearly an hour to spare.

Seven-thirty arrived, and the semi-finals of the Men's Singles were soon under way. Out went Norman Jones (Balfour) and Harry Spiers in two straight, eliminated by Ralph Gunnion, of Bootle Y.M.C.A., and Ronnie Rumjahn, of Rafters, respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor lost their Mixed Doubles title to Gunnion and Mrs. M. Jones, of Bohemians, and R. W. Smith, of Liverpool Y.M.C.A., after a very shaky start, won the junior event against R. Eden. Then came the interval, with no indication of the fun which was to follow.

VETERANS ENTERTAIN

The first set after the break was the Veteran Singles final. The contestants were Les Davies, of Balfour, and, once again, Harry Spiers. Both are genial men of adequate build; both are pen-holders who use sponge (sorry, sandwich) bats. Their style of play is similar yet each found the other difficult to deal with. Consequently the rallies were short, but the friendly, light-hearted way in which the two

players fire awkward shots at each other

cheered and delighted the large crowd of spectators, and the tense, serious atmosphere which had hung over the earlier events was completely dispelled. The pair were evenly matched but Spiers eventually won 22-20 in the third. By then he had made himself so much a part of our League that in retrospect it seems strange that the question at the start of this report was ever asked. It is a happy thought that his business activities will ensure his spending much of his time in Liverpool in future.

FUN AND GAMES

This lively interlude sparked off further gaiety. Three veteran pen-holders (Davies and Spiers plus Alec Gould who had umpired their set) threw out a challenge to play a three-a-side match against any three orthodox players. This was promptly accepted, first by three League officials and then by three young players. The veterans replied that, against the officials, they would play left-handed!

Against this unusually frolicsome background, and with the crowd in good humour, the last four finals were played. Moya Jones and her clubmate. Muriel Wilcox, beat two ladies from Cadwa, Mrs. Crafter and Mrs. Black, in two games; Eric Davies and Bill Pierce had to fight to retain their doubles title

against Ralph Gunnion and Roy Jones; Moya Jones was hard pressed in her first singles game against Muriel Willcox but sailed home comfortably in the second to retain the cup, and a similar pattern emerged in the Men's Singles, in which Ronnie Rumjahn's opposition crumbled in the second game to give Ralph Gunnion the Montague Burton Cup for the first time.

RESULTS Scores (Finals) :

Men's Singles: R. Gunnion beat R. M. Rumjahn 23-21, 21-11.

Men's Doubles: E. Davies and W. Pierce beat R. Gunnion and Roy Jones 21-14, 10-21, 21-18.

Men's Consolation Singles: Roy Jones beat P. S. Hurworth 21-18, 21-18.

Women's Singles: Mrs. M. Jones beat Miss M. Wilcox 24-22, 21-12.

Women's Doubles: Miss Willcox and Mrs. Jones beat Mrs. Black and Mrs. Crafter 21-13, 21-14.

Women's Consolation Singles: Mrs. Lawrenson beat Mrs. Lough-rey 21-13, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles: R. Gunnion and Mrs. Jones beat Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Taylor 21-13, 18-21, 21-15.

Junior Singles: R. W. Smith beat R. Eden 11-21, 23-21, 21-5.

Veteran Singles: H. G. Spiers beat L. Davies 13-21, 21-11, 22-20.

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Women's Notes

By Eileen Mansell

Women's	Division						
	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Bohemians . .	26	22	0	4	217	43	48
Rafters	26	23	1	2	194	66	48
Cadwa.....	24	19	2	3	191	49	41
Oakhill	24	15	5	4	162	78	34
Bath Street .	24	15	7	2	157	83	32
Wvrtree Lab	24	14	8	2	144	96	30
Linnet	24	12	8	4	136	104	28
Cadwa A . . .	24	12	12	0	118	122	24
Orrell.....	24	10	12	2	123	117	22
Bibby's	24	8	11	5	115	125	21
Huntley & P.	24	7	17	0	91	149	14
Bohemians A	24	7	17	0	90	150	14
Waterloo Pk.	24	4	20	0	61	1/9	8
Rafters A . .	26	2	24	0	30	230	4

SO another season has come and gone.

For a few it has been a truly great year, but for others somewhat disappointing, although I am sure that all the ladies have thoroughly enjoyed their matches which always seem to be played in the most friendly spirit with time for a laugh and a joke. I am sure many a jumper or cardigan has been started and finished during the season. Bohemians Double

Congratulations to Bohemians on their great performance in winning both the Divisional Championship and the Bartholomew Cup.

As far as the League Championship is concerned it has been a most exciting season with the top position constantly see-sawing between Bohemians, Rafters and Cadwa right up to the end of the season when Bohemians just managed to pip Rafters at the post, leaving Cadwa to finish in third place.

The Cup final itself was also a "touch and go" affair with a replay before a final position could be given.

On the first occasion Audrey Gee, the captain of Bohemians scored a well deserved win over Betty Black. This was Audrey's best win of the season for she played inspired table tennis and completely demoralised Betty. In the same match, Pauline Lawrenson also defeated Muriel Wilcox in straight sets. Moya Jones won both her games in straight sets as might have been expected. Judy Crafter had a very hard tussle before winning 22-20, 25-23.

Bohemians went into the replay with a lead of 44 points over Cadwa. On this occasion Cadwa played strictly in order of strength, whilst Bohemians dropped Muriel to No. 4 from her customary position at No. 2—a move which did not quite pay off and after some exciting play the second meeting also ended in a draw. As the rules prescribe, the result then hinged on the division of sets and as Bohemians had one more to their credit than Cadwa, the cup went to the West Derby Club.

It is good to see Judy Crafter continuing to improve and I am sure next season will see her presenting a real challenge to the established ladies. Crawford's very kindly lent their Club-room and there was an excellent turn-out to see a match played in the highest tradition of the Ladies' division.

Well done, Moya! I cannot let the season conclude without congratulating Moya on her many fine performances culminating in a very fine "Closed" wherein she became a triple title holder. I am only sorry that the County Authorities have not seen fit to recognise her playing ability as I am certain that she would have made an outstanding contribution to the performances of the County team. It was also good to see Andree Carroll (formerly Andree Jones) coming back into her own again. She is the only lady player to have taken the game off Moya this season.

An Excellent Example

Insofar as the "Closed" Championships are concerned, I would like to congratulate the ladies on their performances. It was almost 100% entry from them and the Management Committee must be very pleased with their efforts. They were well turned out, prompt to go to the table and played all their matches in a thoroughly sporting spirit.

I have been asked by Oakhill to mention the fact that they are hoping to run an "A" team next season. If anyone knows of any ladies wishing to join, will they please get in touch with Mabel Francis.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I have just read this month's *Digest* and would like to say that there are many problems to be solved by all concerned.

My sympathy is with the Management Committee who have to face these situations.

I think that some of the laws laid down should be changed or amended.

One sore point with most clubs is playing short or turning up late on match night. My opinion is that a player who fails to turn up should be fined and the club cautioned as to the future conduct of its players*. A player who knows that he will be late should contact the Secretary or Captain of his opponent's team as to his being late—in this way any bitterness between clubs would be prevented.

My team, Anfield 'B', had a good spell when we played five games without defeat—in doing so we beat Waterloo Dock, Lussac, Oakhill and Cadwa, and drew with the Police away—and I thought we did enough to get some encouragement from the *Digest*. What do you think, editor?

Yours faithfully,
David Caulson, Anfield 13

Dear Sir,

I observe that Wavertree Labour (from Div. 5) won the Rumjahn Cup and Brenka (from Div. 8) reached the semi-final of the Hyde Cup. From these results it is obvious that the Labour Club team should be in Div. 2 and Brenka in Div. 6. Both teams win, on average, by approximately 9 sets to one, which means that neither they nor their opponents can derive much pleasure from these one-sided affairs. This would bring a storm of protest from the team that had to stand down to accommodate them, but it must be obvious to all that such a step should be taken.

The main topic in recent weeks has been the suspension of teams for continually playing with four men. It is evident that neither suspension nor expulsion are suitable punishments. I would like to suggest that the League change to the London League's point system (mentioned in the February edition of the *Digest*) and arrange the fines for playing short so as to double themselves for each offence, starting at 5/-, then 10/-, £1, £2 and so on. If the combination of giving points-away and losing money does not stop these offences, then nothing will.

Yours faithfully,
Ken Chambers Balfour

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Letters to the Editor — continued

Dear Sir,

You ask how many internationals (male) Liverpool has had, then omit one of your own old pals, Fred Bamford. He did play for Wales, you know! And although you may never have known it, being a comparative new boy to the League, there was a student at Liverpool University named Johnny Dass, who represented India at the World Championships, while registered for Thingwall in the Liverpool League.

Then Fred Perry—the first World Champion in 1929-30.

For your information, Dr. Jacoby (1926-27) was the first, followed by Zoltan Mechlovits (1927-28) (both Hungarians), THEN Fred Perry (1928-29, 1929-30). Render unto Barna those things which are Barnas.

I have in my possession Liverpool League handbooks dating back to reason 1929-30, which was the year I mentioned to you as having first played in this League, NOT four years before the League was founded. In the back of this handbook is a little certificate bearing the name of Leslie E. Forrest, certifying that J. K. Green was registered to play in the League for the Pastime Club. For a small fee I will produce this for your inspection.

For your further information, Edie Malley was a member of North Liverpool 'B' team in 1930-31, and she still plays, under her married name. Monty and Fred Bamford came into the League in 1931-32 with Central Y.M.C.A. (now known as Liverpool Y.M.C.A.). According to the League handbooks Fairfield came into the League in 1932-33 season, not 1930-31 as Frank Moore said last issue. And if you really want to know, Len Carter who is doing valiant service for Fairlawn's first team played for Royal Liver in the same season—the year after they won the Read-man Cup (being the first winners thereof).

Always willing to put right you new entrants into the League.

Jim Green,
Linnet T.T.C.

Dear Sir,

In reply to a query last month—the "Crafters" have been registered for quite a time. I registered in 1930 and my husband .1931, Bill has been playing seven years, and Judy two years. I think that adds up to quite a good total of years.

The "family" way of Table Tennis is not new to me; as far back as 40 years ago, there was a Church League in Wallasey and each team had 8 players—my family made up one team—father, mother, brother, three sisters and two brothers-in-law ; they travelled around and enjoyed their matches just as we do. My family have always followed Table Tennis affairs with great interest, my sister Ann having gained her International colours.

I often wonder how long it will be before I speak of my playing days in the past tense—still you are only as old as you feel—(I reckon).

Yours truly,
(Mrs.) Ivy Crafter,
Cadwa T.T.C.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of my Club I would like to support wholeheartedly the suggestion that a competition be held for the lower divisions (we would suggest from Division 4 down). It is not so long ago that regional players had two competitions, now they have none.

As usual in our very "pro-magazine" Club we have once again thoroughly enjoyed the "mag". We would have liked to have seen alterations that affect players given some space, such as change of match nights.

After a number of years absence from the Liverpool Closed I was impressed by the smooth and efficient way that they were run—how nice to see competitors turning up in the region of six o'clock; what a pity more cannot make a 7.30 start for league matches.

Yours sincerely,
Jack Lambert
English Electric T.T.C.

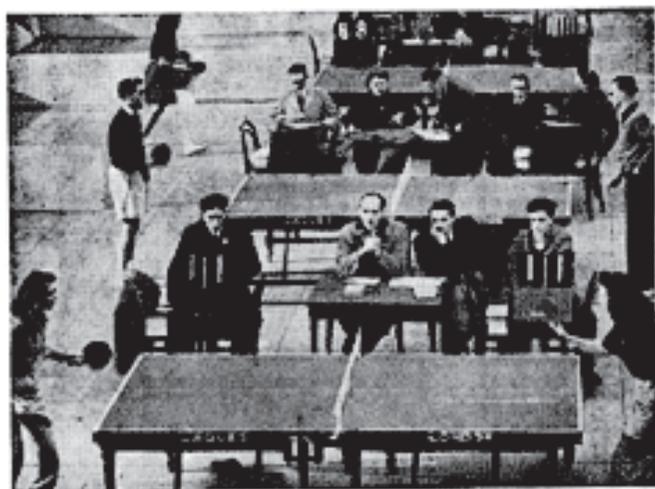
P.S.—How far down the list do I come after Frank Moore with a 1935 signing date

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