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**T A B L E
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D I G E S T**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE DIGEST TENNIS

All correspondence must be addressed to the Editor "Table Tennis Digest", 83 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17.

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Editor : **Albert Montgomery.**
J. Green (News), T. H. Edge (Features), J. McKim, A. Upton and D. Cameron

Vol. XIV

APRIL, 1964

No. 5

EDITORIAL

MY last Editorial has aroused much comment in circles outside the League, as evidenced by the Editorial in "TABLE TENNIS" and a letter therein by Mr. George Yates. I would like to correct the impression, however, which seems to be abroad, that the views stated are the **official** views of the League.

In our Magazine, everything is the personal opinion of the writer, excepting for official announcements by League officials, and the views given were entirely my own, although I do know that many hold similar opinions. I am NOT withdrawing one word, nor making any apology for stating them, merely making the position clear.

At any rate, it seems that the E.T.T.A. take my article seriously. I have had a letter from our old friend, Tom Blunn, E.T.T.A. Treasurer, which I give verbatim.

" Dear Sir,

I am very disturbed and disappointed at the tone and content of the editorial in the March issue of the *Digest*. Disturbed to think that such a biased, one-sided, and misleading statement could be made by anyone who understands the working of any National sporting organisation, and disappointed to think that a league in my own part of the country, the North, could hold such views.

I feel that on the latter point I might well share some responsibility and perhaps I have not done enough spade work. I wish to remedy the matter immediately and would like to come over to Liverpool to discuss the matter with the Committee.

As regards the first point I feel it is up to me to correct the impression given by the article and whilst in Liverpool would like the opportunity of meeting the writer of the article at a public meeting of League members, to allow me to answer each allegation individually. I am sure you will grant me this request and look forward to hearing from you.

I could fill the *Digest* with my comments but the matter is too serious to drag on in correspondence until next season, so, for my part, the sooner we meet and talk, the better.

Please allow me the opportunity of passing my kind regards to my friends on Merseyside and to say how much I appreciate reading the *Digest*—even though I may disagree in this particular instance.

Yours faithfully,

TOM BLUNN
(Treasurer E.T.T.A.)"

Personally I am delighted that Mr. Blunn takes my views to be sufficiently serious to give of his time to come from Hull to give the other side of the case, and I shall be very pleased to meet him at the forthcoming meeting, which I understand will be held at Crawfords on Friday, 22nd May. Over to you, Tom!

The Liverpool "Closed"

FINALS night saw a bigger crowd of spectators than we have had for some years past, and it was encouraging to see that although the last final was not played until nearly 11 o'clock, we still had a big crowd watching. For the first time for a long time we had visitors from the County, and we felt that this was in anticipation of seeing some good games rather than from purely 'courtesy'.

In the first semi-final we had Wally Allanson beating John Stoddart (Anfield) in a rather uninspiring set, mainly because both are happier defending than attacking, and in the second, Ralph Gunnion disposed of Bill Ramsdale (Oakhill) who had reached this stage by two good wins over Harry Spiers and Ted Mandaluff. The Linnets' man had far too heavy calibre guns for Ramsdale to cope with.

The Men's Doubles Final was a thriller in which the holders Peter D'Arcy (Bohemians) and Frank Thomas (Linnets) went down to Gerry Cooklin and Terry Briscoe (both Linnets) 16 in the 3rd. The holders took the first game 21-13 so easily that they looked set for another victory, but their opponents piled on the pressure to take the next two at 19 and 16. This was one of the night's closest and most thrilling games, with all four players eager to hit winners rather than just keep the ball going.

The Mixed Doubles was one-way traffic for Ralph Gunnion and Judy Crafter with a comfortable win against the Bohemians pair of Peter D'Arcy and Barbara Cain. Again, Gunnion hit too hard and too accurately for the opposition, and Judy dealt with all that came her way more than efficiently. The losers fought hard, and were far from disgraced by the result, losing 21-17, 21-17.

The closest event of the evening was the Junior Singles, between Gordon Birch and the holder Bruce Cain—another Cadwa v. Bohemians clash. Cain won after a bitter fight, 21-14, 15-21, 19-21, and once again showed that at present he is the more polished player of the two, for this was the latest in a string of clashes between the two boys

this season in which Cain has won on every occasion. However, it does not need any vast improvement on Birch's part to start turning the tables on this old "enemy".

The Women's Doubles, between Judy Crafter and Mabel Francis on the one hand v. the Bohemians pair of Barbara Cain and Joyce Randall was a fluctuating effort with the former pair taking the first game 25-23, losing the second 11-21, and winning the last 21-9. After the first close scrap, Judy and Mabel seemed to lose their touch in the second, finding it again in the third to demoralise their opponents, who seemed to go completely to pieces at this point.

During the afternoon the finals of the Restricted Singles, and the two Consolation events were played off. The Restricted was won by Graham Platt (Coll. Tech.) beating Alan Tolson (Wavertree Labour) 21-12, 20-22, 21-17. These two had been joint favourites among the 3rd division players, with Mossley Hill's Derek Mahen closely behind, but Mahen was eliminated in the first round by junior Peter Wass (Linnets) which left the way open for Platt to reverse his earlier defeat in the Cup final at Tolson's hands. In the Women's Consolation, Betty Black (Cadwa) came out on top of a battle of hitters v. Billy Illidge (Orrell) 21-17, 24, 22, and the Men's Consolation saw Peter Turtle (Oakhill) beating Wavertree's Eddie Moran rather more comfortably than had been anticipated at 21-16, 21-16.

The Veterans' event had been more or less considered already won by the redoubtable Harry Spiers (Bohemians) before play even began, but the holder of the past two years, Peter Rumjahn, had thoughts of his own, and although Spiers won 21-12 in the 3rd, Peter made him go all the way to get there, playing as well in this final as he has done at any time for some years. Probably the best final of the night.

In the Women's Singles, Judy Crafter regained the title she lost last year by beating the holder Reg. Royle (Anfield) very comfortably indeed 21-10, 21-17. The issue was never really in doubt, and indeed Judy had a much harder battle in

the semi-final against Pirates' Maureen King, who had earlier eliminated a fancied contender in Mabel Francis and Pauline Lawrenson. Judy pulled this one off 21-19, 21-19, after trailjng in each game, in a set which could have gone the other way so very easily. After that one, the final proved disappointing, but it goes to show that we have new players coming along rapidly among the girls.

The Men's final went as expected, with Ralph Gunnion (Linnets) beating Wally Allanson (Cadwa) by an exhibition of attacking play such as we have never seen before in the Closed. The score of 21-13, 21-9 just about summed up the chance that Wally had of holding his title. Forehands and backhands alike flowed from Gunnion's bat and Allanson, playing at his best, just had no answer, and this game made the onlookers realise just how far ahead of any other contender Ralph has become. One shot which will live for many years in the memories of those who saw it was an angled backhand which went at such speed that Allanson never even saw it, and the ball was still going upwards when it disappeared amongst the spectators. On this form, which he seems to be improving on all the time, Ralph Gunnion is unlikely to have any challenger for this title for years

yet to come, and we can feel a certain degree of pride that Liverpool has produced a player of his calibre, even though his work has taken him to live elsewhere.

The general verdict seemed to be that this year the Finals showed a greater degree of skill and a higher standard of play throughout than we have seen for some time, and with some of the up-and-coming players who performed in earlier rounds, and who space does not permit a mention, this standard might even be eclipsed in succeeding years.

I am asked to offer our grateful thanks to those who did so much to make this tournament a success—the Catering ladies, working very short handed, whose efforts were appreciated by all—the young ladies who worked hard selling raffle tickets—the willing voluntary workers who performed various jobs throughout—the Chairman and Secretary who divided their time between working on the platform and washing up in the Canteen, and again to the Chairman for presenting the prizes in the absence of our President, with his customary good nature and aplomb. Finally, to every player, for with such a large entry it was essential to keep all tables going at top speed, and without the willing co-operation of the players, this could never have been done.

OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE.

We offer our most sincere thanks to the following individuals and firms for their donations, both as articles and in cash, which provided the prizes for the "CLOSED" and for whose generosity we are deeply indebted—

Messrs. W. D. & H. O. Wills, Cigarette Manufacturers, Bristol,
who donated the prizes for the five main events, and to their Area Representative, Mr. Farr, who attended the Tournament throughout, presenting the Men's Doubles' prizes to winners.

Messrs. J. A. Arnold & Co., Wholesale Confectioners, 254 Cherry Lane, Liverpool 4.

Messrs. Clayton & Jowett Ltd., Essence Manufacturers, 46 Wood St., Liverpool 1.

Mrs. J. G. Green, Jo's Cafe, 42 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17.

Messrs. J. E. & G. H. Morgan, Newsagents m Tobacconists, 52 Aigburth Road, Liverpool 10.

Messrs. Koromatics Ltd., Music Hire, 40 St. Pauls Street, Leeds 1.

Mr. J. G. Walker, President of Linnets T.T.C., 11 Rangemore Road, Liverpool 18

—and others who wish to remain anonymous.

The Financial aspect of the "CLOSED"

BY THE TREASURER.

THIS report is one which would bring a smile to the face of any Treasurer. The financial success of the Tournament was far greater than we had ever anticipated, and was due to both increased revenue and savings in expenditure. It was very well supported by the League, and the extra event (the Restricted Singles) brought the total entry fees to £51. This resulted also in more spectators and bigger Canteen takings. The daily raffles brought in £18-15-6—a fantastic total which is wholly attributable to the persuasive natures of all the charming young girls who did such a magnificent job selling tickets. Our total income was £26 more than the previous year, whilst our expenditure was £8 less, this being wholly due to our savings on prizes, and here again we must thank "Monty" for his efforts in procuring the prizes and donations to be spent on prizes.

The net result was a profit of £47, and once again our thanks go to all those who have helped towards the undoubted financial success.

Full details are given below, with last year's figures in brackets for comparison—

INCOME			£	EXPENDITURE			£
Entry Fees	(35)	....	51	Hire of Rooms	(15)	....	16
Door Receipts	(6)	....	8	Printing	(5)	....	5
Catering Profit	(6)	....	10	Prizes	(9)	....	2
Raffle Receipts	(15)	....	19	Insurance	(1)	....	1
				Gratuities	(6)	6
				Balls	(2)	2
				Cartage	(8)	5
				Sundries	(2)	1
				Equipment	(1)	3
				PROFIT	(13)	47
			£88				£88

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YOU will all, I trust, have read the Editorial in this issue. Whether or not you agree with the view of the Editor expressed in *last* month's *Digest*, I think you will agree that it is a good sign that we have, at long last, aroused some feelings among the top brass. We have, in fact, been accorded the honour of an article by The Editor of *Table Tennis*, and of course, we have the letter received from Mr. Blunn published in the Editorial of this issue.

The Committee feel that the public meeting requested by the E.T.T.A. Treasurer would be a very good opportunity for members of the League to express their views and have questions answered by the man who *should* be in possession of all the facts.

This meeting will be held at CRAWFORDS on Friday, 22nd May, commencing at 7-30 p.m. **This is the only invitation which will be given.** All League members are welcome. It is NOT a meeting for club representatives only, so please do your best to attend, and make Mr. Blunn's journey worth while.

Whilst on the subject of meeting, the Annual General Meeting of the League will take place at Liverpool YMCA on Friday, 29th May, to commence at 6-30 p.m. I am not certain on what date this *Digest* will reach you, but if it is before 1st May, don't forget that this is the closing date for Nomination papers, and for Rule amendment

proposals. Plenty of loose talk has been flying around this season about how unfair and unjust the present Committee is, and how utterly stupid are the present rules of the League, so there **MUST** be plenty of scope for nominations and rule amendments! I trust that those few who have had so much to say during the season will have the courage to say the same things on the nomination forms—will put forward their proposals for rule changes—and back up their views in front of the League members at the A.G.M.

Whilst talking about the differences of opinion that we have in this League, the Editor of *Table Tennis* in his recent editorial, inferred that we have so much argument in Liverpool amongst ourselves, that we should not have the temerity to criticise the E.T.T.A.! He should realise that the League which has no arguments or disputes is DEAD. We do not hide our differences of opinion—we publish them for all to see in our magazine, which is the envy of many other Leagues.

Just one last reminder about three important dates:

May 22nd.

Meet the E.T.T.A. Treasurer at CRAWFORDS, 7-30 p.m.

May 29th.

League ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Liverpool YMCA, 6-30.
June 30th.

Closing date for entries for NEXT SEASON.

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Around the Divisions

DIVISION 1

—BY JIM GREEN

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
L'pool YMCA	26	23	2	1	215
Bohemians	26	24	1	1	202
Rafters	26	19	7	0	177
Cadwa	26	15	7	4	156
Anfield	26	14	8	4	152
Oakhill	26	11	9	6	144
Lpl. YMCA 'A'	26	14	9	3	141
Pirates	26	11	12	3	122
Linnets	26	9	15	2	120
Lucern	26	9	15	2	113
Bohemians 'A'	26	7	15	4	103
Waterloo Dock	26	7	16	3	92
Rafters 'A'	26	2	23	1	58
Bootle YMCA	26	0	26	0	25

DESPITE defeat at the hands of Bohemians 4-6 in the last match of the season, Liverpool YMCA came in champions by 13 points and retained their title for a second year. While we hail the champions, we must spare a thought for Bohemians—Cup winners and runners-up, who have twice beaten the YMCA, drawn once, and lost once, for the fight for top place has laid between the two from the outset, and a real scrap it has been.

The four to suffer relegation are now Bohemians 'A', Waterloo Dock, Rafters 'A' and Bootle YMCA. It has been obvious for some time that Bootle and Rafters 'A' were no

match for the rest of the division, and Waterloo Dock kept afloat until fairly late on in the season, but for Bohemians 'A' the battle was live right to the last week, with Lucern just pulling ahead at the vital time. Lucern have been making a habit of this for some seasons now—a poor start, then a spectacular recovery late on to pull clear, so for them, this was an old story.

I understand that a proposal is to be made at the A.G.M. regarding the number of teams to be relegated and another to revert to the old points system. While not discussing these here, I do suggest that clubs study both of these carefully in the light of this season's events before they vote.

Summing up the season, it has been a good one in most ways, but I have seen no evidence that those who used to leave early have stayed on after playing their sets—that the notorious late arrivals continued to arrive late—that absenteeism and last-minute reserves came at about the normal level—and that everyone played to win as has been the case in this division since 1926! No different, but just as enjoyable, which we hope will be the case for future seasons.

DIVISION 2A

BY JIM ROBINSON

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Wav. Lab. 'A'	24	24	0	0	216
R.A.F.A.	24	18	5	1	162
Linacre	24	17	5	2	149
Cadwa 'A'	24	15	7	2	145
Waterloo Pk.	24	16	8	0	139
Bath St. 'A'	24	11	9	4	122
Beauclair	24	10	11	3	117
Eng. Elec.	24	11	10	3	113
L.P.A.S. 'A'	24	6	14	4	100
L'pool P.O.	24	6	16	2	88
Oakhill 'A'	24	4	15	5	87
Fairlawn 'A'	24	3	18	3	79
Rafters 'B'	24	0	23	1	43

AS we come to the end of yet another season, we must firstly offer our sincere congratulations to the champions, Wavertree Labour 'A' who went through the season undefeated, and who also brought additional honours to our division

by beating their own 1st team to win the Rumjahn Cup. It has been, I'm afraid, only too obvious that this side was far too strong for anyone else in our division, and they will be more in their own sphere in the top division.

We must commiserate with the relegated teams, and, also offer our condolence to the poor unfortunates who will accompany Wavertree into the 1st division, for most assuredly they will be back in division 2 one year hence. I have spoken recently to members of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th teams in our division and they are all of one mind, i.e. *they do not want promotion!* It certainly makes one think!

Taking everything into account I feel that with one or two exceptions it has been a happy season. Perhaps

the fact of having a one-horse race in the division as regards the championship, has enabled all the also-rans to have a more sociable approach to their matches, and speaking entirely for myself I found it much more pleasant than the real cut-throat competition which has existed in past seasons.

I have been taken to task for not having mentioned many individual performances in these notes, but in all honesty, in the playing sense, outstanding matches have been few and far between, and I really do not see the point of going into raptures over everyday games and results. However, I would not like

anyone to feel that they have been slighted, so have pleasure in tendering my apologies to all who think that they have suffered in this respect.

In closing, and as this is the Shakespeare Anniversary time, I asked a colleague of mine for an appropriate quotation to cover things at this time of the Table Tennis year. I thought his effort rather apt, so I would commend the same to all who are responsible for the legislation of the League:

" We are here to cure such sorrows,
not to sow 'em.

For goodness sake, *consider what
you do*".

(Henry VIII).

DIVISION 2B

BY PETER HURWORTH

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Wav. Labour	24	24	0	0	222
Anfield "A"	24	17	3	4	156
Bath Street	24	15	5	4	152
L.P.A.S.	24	13	5	6	140
L.pl. YMCA "B"	24	13	7	4	135
Fairlawn	24	12	9	3	124
Crawfords	24	10	10	4	124
Bohemians "B"	24	8	10	6	117
University	24	7	10	7	112
Cadwa "B"....	24	5	15	4	100
Linnets "A"	24	6	14	4	93
Bath St. "B"	24	1	22	1	46
W'loo Park "A"	24	2	22	0	39

WAVERTREE Labour have won the League with a clear 66 points lead over the runners-up, and without losing a match throughout the season. The unfortunate accident to Ted Morris handicapped the side a little at the latter end, but there was never any doubt about the ultimate championship. All we hope for now is to see Ted back in action again next season in the 1st division with the rest of the team, and wish him a speedy recovery. The main interest has been centred in the battle between Bath Street and Anfield "A" for the second spot, and this went to Anfield by the slender margin of 4 points so this was kept alive to the bitter end. The Liverpool YMCA "B" team fell away earlier due to the loss of players in their top sides, otherwise it would have been a three-cornered scrap. However, Anfield made it and will line up among the big boys next session.

At the other end, Cadwa "B", Linnets "A", Bath Street "B" and Waterloo Park "A" have all qualified for relegation, but how many will go down cannot be ascertained. The rules specify that "two teams are promoted from each lower division and an equivalent number are relegated," but since there are vacancies in both 2nd divisions this year one or more sides might escape the drop. However, this will be a matter for the Committee to decide. We can only hope that their next season is a happier and more successful one than this in whatever division they find themselves.

Fairlawn, weakened by the loss of Peter Whalley, then troubled by the loss of their clubroom for the last few weeks, both having an unsettling effect, did not play to their full ability, and somehow I have the sneaking suspicion that next time we shall find them higher placed, and had Arthur Jones been available more often we could have found them in second place, for they would have been strengthened by a vast amount had he been there every week.

Still, it has been a good season, no "marks" and generally speaking, one of the most enjoyable I have played in for some years, and I can only hope that this happy state will carry on in Division 2B in future. For now, I wish you all a good summer and better table tennis than ever for next year.

DIVISION 3A

By DAVID EATON

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Pirates "A"	26	25	1	0	214
Colonsay	26	22	3	1	184
Wav. Lab. "C"	26	20	5	1	176
St. Mary's Coll.	26	15	10	1	152
Stanley House	26	16	6	4	150
Maghull	26	16	10	0	149
Lpl. Jewish "B"	26	15	11	0	141
Linnets "C"	26	14	12	0	138
Oakhill "B"	26	8	17	1	98
Eng. Elec. "C"	26	5	19	2	94
Anfield "D"	26	5	18	3	90
L.Y.C.A.	26	4	20	2	86
University "A"	26	6	19	1	85
Fairlawn "B"	26	2	22	2	63

AS expected by all of us from the beginning of the season, our division is headed by the Pirates "A" team, who have coasted into port by such a long lead that their last few matches have been a mere formality. Only once did they lower their colours, to Wavertree Labour "C" and that they will be well up among the leaders of either of the 2nd divisions next year cannot be disputed. Our main interest has been the battle for second place, and Colonsay have made it by a mere 8 points, despite crashing 1-9 to the Pirates, in a game where only C. Humphreys had a win, in two straight over Dick Burge. Wavertree Labour "C" kept up the pressure, hoping no doubt to be the team to accompany their "B" team to the 2nd Division, but failed by the shortest of heads.

St. Mary's College have done

extremely well for a new club in their first season, and no doubt hope to improve on this performance next year, while Stanley House, relying on their well-seasoned players were only two sets behind.

Maghull showed a vast improvement on last year, and keeping up this progress will be a side to be reckoned with next time, as will Liverpool Jewish "B" and Linnets "C". Linnets have a youngster named Peter Wass who shows every sign of being future 1st Division material, and another, Ian Burrows, even younger, who will be one of the well-known names before long. Wass has had some very good wins since his promotion to this division, including a double playing at No. 1 over M. Holland and J. Thorley of Anfield, which gives some indication of his potential.

14 points cover the next five side in the division, the top team being some 40 points behind Linnets "C" however, which amply demonstrates the vast difference in standard between the top 8 sides and the remainder, and is possibly as good an argument for 2 third and 2 fourth divisions next season, as can be made out.

I hope that our players have enjoyed their matches, and that we shall find them battling away again next year. Have a good summer, and get the forehand going ready for September.

DIVISION 3B

By GEORGE GRIME

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Wav. Lab. "B"	26	25	0	1	224
Linnets "B"	26	19	5	2	198
Mossley Hill	26	20	3	3	198
Anfield "B"	26	19	5	2	191
Sefton Gen.	26	19	6	1	170
Crawfords "B"	26	16	9	1	165
Eng. Elec. "B"	26	13	12	1	128
Bath St. "C"	26	11	14	1	127
Pirates "B"	26	10	15	1	102
Crawfords "C"	26	6	18	2	79
Orrell "A"	26	3	20	3	74
Colonsay "A"	26	4	20	2	66
Coll. Tech. "A"	26	3	21	2	55
Linnets "F"	26	2	22	2	43

HAVING just laid my bat to rest in the bottom of the wardrobe, I now turn to the last report of the season. Wavertree Labour are 'top

of the pops' with an unbeaten record, and a 100 per cent. individual League performance from their lead guitar, Alan Tolson. They head the table 26 convincing points ahead over the runners-up and easily qualify for their "golden table tennis ball". Well done Wavertree Labour.

To those of you about to condemn my poor punctuation, let me tell you that the position of apostrophe in the previous paragraph is quite in order since Linnets "B" and Mossley Hill shared the privilege of being 'runners-up'. Having beaten the Anfield and Linnets "B" teams 6-4 and 7-3 respectively in consecutive weeks (thus reversing earlier results), Mossley Hill then swept through the

season's remaining fixtures to get just a finger-nail-hold on second place! A magnificent run in by Mossley Hill, and a grand show by Harry Holmes' boys who played virtually unchanged throughout the entire season, for Linnets "B".

Sefton had misfortune in not being able to arrange a date for their postponed home match with Linnets "F" and so had to concede to the latter side a 10-0 walkover. This did not affect their League position, however, and their placing is unchanged.

Congratulations again to Wavertree Labour for bringing the Hyde Cup home to the division by defeating Technical College of 3C in the final, also to those individuals who have represented our division in the Micklesfield medals tournament.

In closing I wish you all success

in your summer activities, whether it be cricketing, playing tennis, mowing the back lawn, or just messing about on the river! Me? Well, I'm off to dust down the deck chairs and do a bit of bird-watching! See you all next season.

P.S. An odd-ode!

There are those who remember
The month of November,
When an old bloke played for
both "F" and "B".

But what's more inspiring
And most tantalising,
He's been in the first team and "E".
To round off the show
The old so-and-so
Turned out for teams "A", "C"
and "D".

Still in spite of the spate
I am glad to relate,
This is not his O-Bit-U-A-RY!!

DIVISION 3C.

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Coll. Tech.	26	22	1	3	224
Crawfords "A"	26	24	1	1	210
L'pool Jewish	26	19	4	3	188
Lpl. YMCA "C"	26	16	5	5	163
Balfour "C"	26	14	9	3	162
Orrell	26	14	11	1	153
Beauclair "A"	26	14	9	3	149
L.P.A.S. "B"	26	11	11	4	149
Bohs. "C"	26	13	11	2	138
Eng. Elec. "D"	26	9	16	1	85
Lowlands "A"	26	5	20	1	62
Linnets "E"	26	1	21	4	56
Bradstones	26	1	22	3	42
Oakhill "C"	26	0	22	4	39

CONGRATULATIONS go to the College of Technology on winning the division and for being finalists in the Hyde Cup, and commiserations to Crawfords "A" who led the field for so long, only to be overtaken in the 'home straight'. But Crawfords "A" during the past few weeks have been dropping sets which they could ill-afford, while College of Technology have been sweeping all before them with re-sounding victories (blinding 'em with science in fact!). The triumph has been a team effort for they have fielded only 8 players during the season. Graham Platt, their No. 1, dropped his first League set against Eric Dorfman (Pirates) in the last fortnight, apart from which he has won much as he pleased. This was indeed a fine show by Dorfman, for

By JIMMY BOWDEN

until then Platts only defeat was in the Cup against Tolson (Wavertree Labour) and Platt had won the Restricted Singles at the 'Closed' in a high quality field, so the Pirates may be justified in feeling some pride in the show of their No. 1.

There have been more individual walk-overs in the latter half of the season, but as a whole the division has functioned smoothly. Notable achievements of the last few weeks were doubles by the following in their sides 2-8 defeats: Tommy Gee (Bohs.), Miss I. Russell (LPAS) and G. Kelly (Lowlands), while in 1-9 defeats the sole wins were registered by L. Cohen (Bohs.), T. Gordon (E.E.C.), A. Wood (LPAS), G. Pappell (Oakhill), D. J. Jarman (Linnets), E. D. Wilson (Bradstones) and T. Kennedy (also of Bradstones—twice). Bradstones, although finding the going hard in their first season kept fighting, and were rewarded with their first win v. Oakhill "C", and with the experience gained this year, we should find them further up the table next time. Beauclair did well, taking four sets from Crawfords "A", W. Hardcastle getting a double and J. McKim and Mrs. E. Palmer each adding one.

Enjoy your summer, and come back in September refreshed, and ready for another (I hope) equally enjoyable season.

DIVISION 3D

By JACK LAMBERT

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Lpl. Jewish 'A'	18	15	2	1	149
St. Edward's	18	17	0	1	148
Eng. Elec. 'A'	18	13	3	2	132
Anfield 'C'	18	12	5	1	130
Lowlands	18	7	9	2	83
Linnets 'D'	18	6	9	3	79
Beauclair 'B'	18	5	11	2	62
Lussac	18	6	12	0	61
Dom. Mission	18	3	15	0	45
Bradstones 'A'	18	0	18	0	11

HOW close can you get? Liverpool Jewish had to beat Linnets 'D' 8-2. They won 9-1 and pipped St. Edward's by 1 point for the title. The Jewish team have had an excellent first season, and we congratulate Mike Frydman (top scorer), Jimmy Mangnall (ever-present), David Cohen, veteran Don Cameron and Norman Beilinson. (Statistics are quoted minus the odd card). Spare a thought for Phil Kelly and his boys, who drew one match, lost NONE, yet lost the League, which is tough luck after a terrific fight. Lawson 100 per cent. great, followed closely by O'Keefe and Smith, the former playing in every match.

For Anfield, Southall, Daly, Patterson and Davies played in every game—super team spirit—Southall top scorer. Other teams top scorers

(with top appearances in brackets): Bradstones—Rice, Burke and Fearn (Pam Lyons); Beauclair—Sturgess (Sturgess); English Electric—the plump, rather elderly gentleman! (the same bloke and Moon 100 per cent.); Lucem—McCullough (McCullough); Lowlands—Smith, Dixon and Finnegan (Finnegan); Lussac—Gower (Murphy); Linnets—Wass (Huddlestow and Ashcroft).

The divisional side for the Micklesfield Medals was Lawson, Southall, Moon, Cohen and Gower—argue about that! Reserves: O'Keefe, Wass and Burrows.

I reckon Mike Gower the most improved player in the division during the season. St. Edward's scored a double over Liverpool Jewish. Burrows and Dixon were mainly responsible for a Lowlands—Linnets draw. Bradstones scored their first win. Anfield beat Electric (Davies 2) who took a point from Jewish (Moon and Frydam 2 apiece). Linnets 5 (Burrows 2, Marion Lewis 2), Beauclair 5 (Miss Collins 2). Domestic Mission (R. Jackson 2) beat Lucem (McCullough 2). Best performance of the season Linnets (Wass and Burrows again doubles) drew with Anfield (Tattersall and Birch 2 each).

If you feel like a match or a chat any time—see you at English Elec.

WOMEN'S DIVISION.

By AMY BELL

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Cadwa	24	21	1	2	197
Bohemians	24	21	2	1	186
Crawfords	24	17	5	2	168
Bath Street	24	16	8	0	156
Linnets	24	14	7	3	154
Rafters	24	14	7	3	134
Cadwa 'A'	24	10	11	3	133
Anfield	24	10	10	4	130
Pirates	24	7	15	2	93
Ches. Lines	24	7	16	1	72
Bohemians 'A'	24	4	20	0	51
Eng. Electric	24	1	21	2	44
Linnets 'A'	24	2	21	1	42

SO Cadwa have added the League championship to the Bartholomew Cup, and once again have pulled off the double, a result fully justified by the consistent high performance of the side throughout the season. Other teams have kept up a strong

challenge from the start, and a marked improvement on the part of some of these sides from last season was readily noticeable. Bath Street and Crawfords were obviously greatly improved, although relying on the same players, and should their improvement continue they will offer a greater threat to Cadwa next season. Bohemians, never at full strength, are always potential champions should they decide to field their strongest four, but this season Moya Jones appeared to concentrate on the mixed division instead of ours, only playing when one of the regular team was not available. Still, with Barbara Cain in the team, they still made Cadwa go all out to top the table.

The drop down the table of Rafters has been most surprising,

especially with Eileen Mansell joining up, and the lowly position of the Pirates team would seem inexplicable with the players they have available, until it is realised that they gave priority to mixed matches rather than ours—as they are perfectly entitled to do, so this is no moan—but had their full team played throughout, they would undoubtedly have finished much higher.

Although down at the bottom, the younger girls from Linnets "A" have issued a warning to their first team that next season will find them being challenged for their places in the senior side, and since these youngsters are practising most evenings, summer and winter, the close season should improve them a great deal before September. English Electric have had little luck, but the first season is always the worst for newcomers, and we hope to find them back, improved, and ready for battle next year.

An interesting proposal was sent to the Committee by Cadwa, and

I was asked to put this to the division in these notes. This is to divide the division into two, with each team playing others either three or four times during the season to ensure a full fixture list—thus giving more "equal" matches to all sides, whether the better teams or those of lesser playing standard. Such a proposal does not require a rule change, but, should the women's teams decide to propose this at the coming A.G.M. as a recommendation to the Committee, and the majority agree, the Committee will give it thought when drawing up next season's fixtures. I am told by the Editor, that a similar system has been submitted to the *Digest* by Mabel Francis, so there is obviously some desire for this, and the "Women in Mind" article has reaped some reward.

Finally, my thanks to you all for a good season with few "narks"—for the most encouraging signs that we have got new players coming along—and a very good summer to you all. See you next September.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

By Jack McCaig

RELEGATION FOR MEN?

It looks as though the Men's 1st Team are to suffer relegation at the end of this season to Division 2. Whilst one match still remains to be played, against Burnley away, later in the month, a win here must be obtained to avoid the drop. While this is not impossible, Burnley always provide stiff opposition and will be keen to strengthen their own rather precarious position.

JUNIORS SLIP ONCE AGAIN

One match still remains to be played by the Juniors also, against Stockport at home, and even a win here will not help at this stage to bring honours in this Division. A good start to the season has been followed (as last year) by a disappointing run in. Apart from the two-counties competition, the Selection Committee is very disturbed to note that, of the regular team this season, only one player of the three entered for the Junior event in our own Closed tournament. Where is the enthusiasm of old, and the will to knock the holder from his pedestal? It does make one feel that a lot of effort is put in by certain people for the enjoyment of others with no loyalty shown in return by certain players.

THANKS AGAIN

I feel the members of the League should be aware of the debt they owe to the respective non-playing Captains of the various teams who continue to travel about the counties giving their time most willingly in the interests of this League, and to the clubs who are so unstinting in the lending of their rooms for home matches. I refer particularly to Miss Amy Bell, Mrs. Ivy Crafter, and Messrs. Peter Rumjahn, Ron McFvoy and Alex Gould, coupled with the following clubs: Bath Street, Beauclair, Crawfords, English Electric, Linnets, Liverpool YMCA and Wavertree Labour.

The Bartholomew Cup Final

Cadwa 7, Crawfords 8.

WITHOUT trying to belittle the performance of Crawfords in this, their first appearance in the final, the score just about sums up the difference between the two sides, for nine of the sets were won in two-straight, the one which did go to three being won (for Crawfords) by Muriel Cox against Pauline Lawrenson 22-20.

Judy Crafter had little difficulty in disposing of her two opponents, Mabel Francis (16 and 14) and Joyce Barton (6 and 6) and the evergreen Ivy Crafter beat Barbara Horsley and Muriel Cox 21-19, 21-13 and 21-5, 21-13 respectively. Gloria Burns lost to Mabel 18 and 17, and beat Barbara 16 and 15, and Pauline Lawrenson beat Joyce Barton to offset her defeat by Muriel. The double were equally shared, Judy and Pauline beating Mabel and Muriel, and Ivy together with Gloria Burns going down to sisters Joyce and Barbara.

Factually, the report stops there,

but the match was not without interest, even though one never thought the ultimate result in any doubt. Crawfords were nervous in their first final, which did not let them play up to their normal form, while the more experienced Cadwa side, finalists so often, and League champions to boot, just seemed to treat this as one more match, and that accounted for so very much.

This is unlikely to be the last time we shall see Crawfords in the final, and doubtless they will use this first time as a guide as what not to do then—mainly, to take this just as another game to be played, and I am perfectly certain that then they will provide much sterner opposition.

* * *

GET WELL SOON.

We hear that Mrs. Ivy Crafter is in hospital and we sincerely hope that she will soon be fit again to resume her place at home with her family.—*Editor.*

RUMJAHN CUP FINAL.

The Final that had Everything

The time is 11.58 p.m. A return by Ted Morris drops into the net. And the shout which proclaims that Wavertree Labour "A" have won the Rumjahn Cup by beating their (supposedly) senior team after more than eight hours play, almost raises the ceiling of the Beauclair clubroom.

It was a final the like of which is unlikely to be seen for a long time. It was obvious before the first ball was hit that it was going to be a match marked with an unusually tense atmosphere, and the shout that heralded the end was as much the release of pent-up feelings as it was of victory.

In such an atmosphere it was not surprising that mistakes were made only superhuman players could have avoided them but both the first match and the replay were marked by a lot of fine play from all ten players.

Evenly matched.

If anything the 'A' team merited their success for the determined way they went about their job and it resulted in a meeting between two teams so evenly matched that before the end officials were kept busy totting up games and points for it looked certain that the result would depend on one or the other.

One of the most remarkable features was that in the 20 sets played in the two matches only three of the results varied, but it was a fact that two of those variations went in favour of the "A" team which decided the issue.

In the first game Peter Hurworth beat Trevor Owen 21-18, 19-21, 21-6 and Bill Clayton beat Ken Chambers 21-16, 20-22, 21-16, while N. Chaloner beat F. Farquharson 21-16, 21-18. In the replay Owen and Chambers reversed the order by winning 15-21, 21-11, 21-15 and 21-16, 21-11 respec-

tively, while Farquharson accounted for Chaloner 16-21, 21-16, 22-20.

Another difference was that while in the first game it was the senior side who kept taking the lead, in the replay it was the "A" team who kept getting the edge. This left them leading 5-4 with Eddie Moran and Morris having once again to play off the final set, with Moran having to win one game to ensure his side winning.

Everything seemed all set for another draw when Morris took the first game 21-17, but Moran is nothing if not a fighter who makes every point the winning post, and his concentration and care during that second game was something to watch. Amid a silence that was almost overwhelming he got his nose in front when the pair had reached the 'teens and it was a tricky little drop shot that finally won him the game 21-18.

What followed was hitting with abandon by Moran - all of them as liable to go off as on, but as the majority went on he took the final game to make it a clear cut win.

Man of match.

Moran was, indeed, the man of the final, for he saved the first match for the "A" team and won them the second by some really intelligent play.

Other big factors were the improvement in Ken Chambers' play

in the replay, and the way in which Trevor Owens won a victory as much over himself as over Hurworth. He is a player who can go a long way if he takes himself in hand. He has developed a fine loop shot and the ability to exploit it, but he appears as though he has yet to learn that everything is not finished because one shot does not come off.

Last impression of the two games was that, if Wavertree have all ten players next season, someone is going to have a terrible headache in dividing them into two teams, and that they are capable of putting out a team that will make a big challenge in the first division.

X X X

The Editor comments: Our Reporter did not know that, in making his very last shot of the last point in the replay, against Moran, Ted Morris sustained a very serious leg injury, which has kept him on his back ever since the final. At the time of writing, Ted is still in hospital and an operation might be needed before he is up and about again. Indeed it is more than possible that he will not be recovered in time to play next season. On behalf of every member of the League, may I express the sincere hope that he is soon back to his normal health, and our regret that such a fine final resulted in this injury.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

re: "With Women in Mind" (February, 1964)

The following views and comments are entirely my own—but I am certain they will be endorsed by many others.

For a start I am with suggestions (b) and (c). To agree to anything else would mean less table tennis. On suggestion (a)—if all the women did play only in the Mixed divisions then it would become possible that two or more top players from different clubs not to play each other for several seasons. I think that the women *should* pay each other in order to get a clear picture of playing ability amongst themselves. To the "better" players who want only to play in the Mixed divisions I accuse them of "*wanting to hide*".

Assuming the Women's division will not be abolished (I don't think it will be—or should be), and (b) or (c) is not carried out—then if there are going to be players who insist on playing just in the Mixed divisions, then let them state that fact on their registration forms, *and bar them from taking part in ANY of the Women's League and Cup matches*. It's not fair on the other teams when a stronger player, preferring to play only in Mixed divisions, will turn out for their now-weakened Women's team when they have a hard match due or to assist them in the latter stages of the Bartholomew Cup. *Either they're going to play in the Women's team or they're NOT!* If all the women were to give their own division priority all the time, the standard of play, inspired by competition, would be bound to rise—then if they have time, let them play in the Mixed also to improve their game even more. At the moment there is one club who have only a women's team. If they had wanted to play in the Mixed division, they would have entered their team in such. By playing in the Women's division they have a better chance of winning some points, and ensure a better social evening than they would get in the Mixed—so, if you want to keep players in the League, keep the Women's Division. And thinking of another club— I don't know why they bothered to enter a Women's team at all if most of them knew that they intended to give the Mixed divisions priority. It means a false position in the League table, much to their discredit—apart from spoiling the match night of other League members.

If abolishing the Women's division is to be taken seriously (by the few) then a vote should be given to every individual lady member—not 1 club, 1 vote, or any other way. Done this way I've no need to guess the result.

I would like to offer a suggestion myself: To separate club standard and so to avoid this 'hammering' and 'clobbering' of certain teams, ALWAYS have two divisions, however small, and instead of sticking to playing each other only twice, play each other two or three times, or go one better and make it four. I'm sure that that would make us all happy.

By *guaranteeing* two divisions, I'm sure that more will return to the Women's divisions—those teams who have so recently left will come back, so giving the League more financial benefit.

Yours faithfully,

MABEL FRANCIS
(Crawfords T.T.C.).

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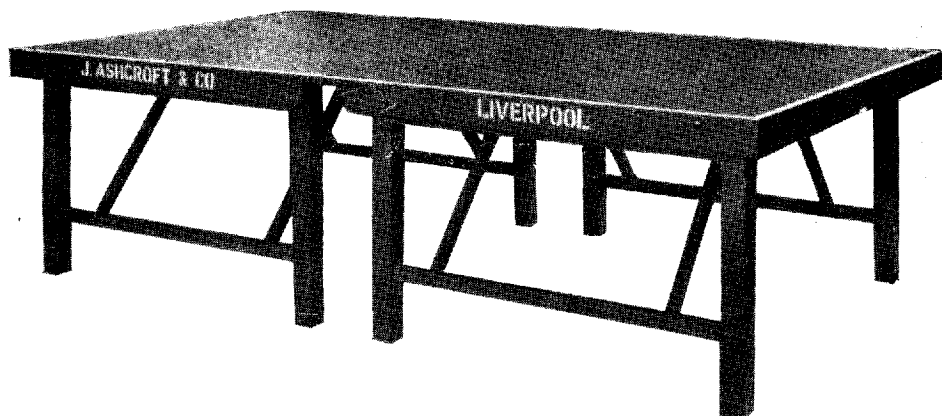


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Dear Sir,

Disappointment—not " Sour Grapes "

As Secretary of a ' one-team ' club with never more than 7 or 8 registered members, I would like to make some comments on the system of allocating points on the basis of events won rather than upon the result of matches.

The final League table for Division 3D will show that the top position has gone to Liverpool Jewish "A" by the margin of one set. Such a situation has occurred under the old system but only after there had been a tie for first place on the points awarded for winning and drawing matches. In other words, in the past, the first place has gone to the admittedly stronger team. In the current season my team dropped only ONE ' old style ' point while Jewish dropped FIVE—including four to us. Their position at the top is due, apart from their undenied ability, to a combination of unfortunate circumstances: mid-season injury to one of our better players, a business transfer of another at the same time; the withdrawal of teams which cost us more points than Jewish; the legitimate, but unfortunate, application of Match Regulation 15 in the last and decisive match; and, as always, the ability of the larger club to strengthen any of its teams at will for key matches, even with a representative player from another division. All of these factors would have applied, of course, under the old system of points but the chances of their affecting the top position would have been very much smaller. For instance, the withdrawal of Lucem "A" cost us 20 points, *but cost Jewish only 19.*

Despite the impression that the above might give, I would like to stress that the purpose of this letter is to illustrate the effects of the new points system and not to bemoan the lack of medals. We play for the game itself and, in any case, feel that the League table speaks for itself. Our aim has been to reach a division where, each week, each of our players meets two strong opponents. We hope we have achieved this aim even as number two in our division.

Our experience shows that the new system HAS NOT brought the benefits promised by its sponsors. We feel that the strongest team *over the whole season* has not topped our division. We have seen NO evidence that more players have stayed to see the last events played—this depends upon the attitude of the individual and not a system of scoring. Finally, the discreet re-arrangement of playing order by some of the more lowly-placed teams could have decided the top position in our division.

Yours faithfully,

P. KELLY

(St. Edward's Old Boys T.T.C.).

Dear Sir,

May I, through the *Digest* express my thanks to Linaere T.T.C. for allowing me to play my games in our recent away fixture with them.

It was, I regret to say, after nine o'clock when I arrived, and to have been greeted with black looks and stony silence would have been no more than I deserved. Nothing however could have been further from the truth. I was immediately supplied with refreshments and made to feel as much at home as if I had been at our own club. Although we lost my only regret was that I did not arrive an hour and a half sooner to have enjoyed the company of a fine team for the whole evening.

With my renewed thanks, also that of the other members of Rafter's "B".

Yours sincerely,

FRED WINSTANLEY.

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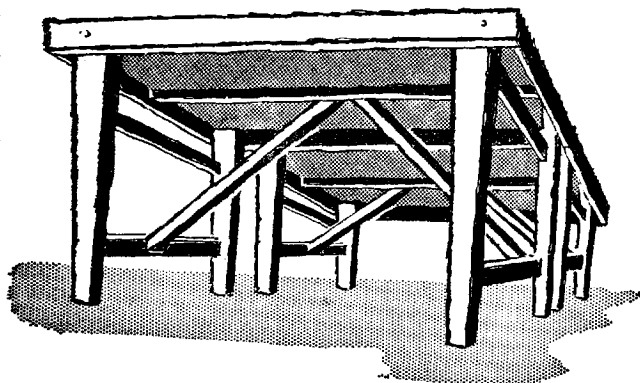
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