

Volume X.  
Number 1.



L  
November 1959

Price 6d.

**TABLE  
TENNIS  
DIGEST**

*Official Magazine*

OF THE

**LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

# TABLE *Digest* TENNIS

All correspondence must be addressed to The Editor, "Table Tennis Digest", 9 Podium Road, L'pool 13

Published during the months of Nov., Dec., Feb., March and April. Season subscriptions **3s.9d.** post free

EDITORIAL BOARD :

Editor: **J. D. Pattison**

**A. E. Upton, J. C. McKim, A. Montgomery**

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Vol. X

November, 1959

No. 1

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## AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

**W**E make no apology for using for our opening editorial a notice which has been exhibited in the Rafters clubroom for all their members to see and a copy of which was sent to the *Digest* by their secretary, Mr. Eric Caird.

It expresses a view which has several times been voiced in this column and it is pleasing to see that at least one club is determined to set a worthy example to the League. In his accompanying letter Mr. Caird expresses the hope that in making the notice public through the *Digest*, other clubs will take similar action—a hope we strongly endorse. Here is the notice.

At the club's A.G.M. on September 8, 1959, it was agreed that the general standard of turn-out in the Liverpool League left a great deal to be desired, as a result of which the members agreed that the committee of the Rafters Club should be empowered to enforce club Rule 22, which was amended at the aforementioned General Meeting, to read as follows:—

Any member of the club selected as a member of any of the club's teams must wear (1) royal blue shirt with club badge; (2) lower garment of grey material, if possible; (3) white socks; (4) white gym shoes.

It will be noted that all the four constituent parts of the above rule are obligatory with the exception of section 2 which specifies that the lower garment should be of grey material, **IF POSSIBLE**. In making this an optional clause the members had in mind that individuals might not wish to be committed to the expense of new lower garments of a grey material where they had perfectly good clothing of a different colour, but the hope was expressed that as and when these items become due for renewal they will be replaced by ones made of grey material.

A specific request is made to all members that white gym shoes are cleaned at frequent intervals.

## A Tribute

**T**HE following letter was received from Mr. Eric Caird, secretary of the Rafter's Club, and it is with some pleasure that we print it. In doing so may we point out that the gentleman in question has been completely ignorant about its appearance here.

A few years ago the League suffered a grievous loss in the death of its general secretary, Bill Stamp—an occurrence which at the time left many people wondering who would step into the breach, and with what success. In the event, the position was filled by John McKim.

To have followed such a flamboyant personality as dear old Bill must have caused John some misgivings, particularly as his own inclination is to keep as much out of the limelight as possible. Whilst this latter trait must always be admired, it nevertheless sometimes happens that qualities not easily seen sometimes go unrecognised, which in regard to John McKim would be as unfortunate as unkind.

I trust, therefore, that you will see your way clear to publish this letter in the first *Digest* of the

season in order that some slight recognition might be given to the excellent services which John McKim renders to the Liverpool Table Tennis League.

We of the Rafter's Club have been profoundly impressed by the prompt and efficient attention to the League's business, culminating in the most impressive manner possible in the receipt by all club secretaries of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting within seventy-two hours of its being held. This is the sort of service which makes for harmony between the Management and the clubs in general, as well as going a long way to considerably lightening the load of club secretaries.

It is fitting, therefore, that the opportunity be taken at the commencement of a new table tennis season to thank John most sincerely for his work in the past few years, particularly as during this time he has not always enjoyed the best of health, and to wish him continued success in his efforts on our behalf in the years to come, coupled with the return of full health once more.

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## CHAIRMAN SETS AN EXAMPLE

By J. McKim

**T**HE Liverpool Boys' Association has now, with the help of the Liverpool League, affiliated through the county to the E.T.T.A. This opens the way for further co-operation between the two organisations, and I appeal once again to any club interested to contact me.

Clubs interested in the scheme will not tie themselves to hard and fast commitments. I will put secretaries of such clubs in touch with the secretary of their nearest L.B.A. club, and let them talk over the ways in which they can help each other.

The L.B.A. now has 50 teams playing organised table tennis under the rules of the E.T.T.A. and this supply of young players, if catered for by the League clubs when they are 18 and leave the L.B.A., can make a tremendous difference to the future of the Liverpool League, and, of course, your own club.

### PASSED TEST

Last season I asked for more members to take an interest in umpiring and try for their County Umpire's Badge. Three members of the League have since applied for test papers, and one, your chairman, Mr. Arthur Upton, successfully passed his practical test at the North of England Approved in October and has been awarded his badge. He has set the example—why not follow it.

The Committee, has in its possession an official measure, supplied by the E.T.T.A., for measuring sandwich bats. I hear that a few bats now in use in the League do not conform to the official ruling.

Many alterations have been made to the handbook since it was printed, more than any other season, and some thought must be given to this next year. If you have any suggestions I shall be pleased to hear them, but please don't suggest that the closing date for entries be put back.

### THE CHANGES

Here is a list of all alterations of which I have been advised, please

check your handbooks.

**AIGBURTH** and **ALBRIGHT** have resigned from the League.

**BEAUCLAIR**: Secretary, Mrs. I. Sturgeon, 36 Ashbourne Road, Liverpool, 17. LAR 1572.

**LIVERPOOL C.C.**: Add 'A' team to South Region. Thursday.

**LIVERPOOL Y.M.C.A.**: J. Coveney, address now c/o Liverpool Y.M.C.A.

**LUCEM**: New Sec.: P. Faulkner, 90 Stanley Park, Litherland. Office, BOO. 3022.

**MOSS SIDE**: New Sec.: J. S. Paterson, 11 Park Lane, Maghull.

**OAKHILL**: New Sec.: J. Grant, 43 Cambria Street, Liverpool, 7.

**RAFTERS**: New match sec.: R. Rumjahn, 10 Birchfield Way, Lydiate. Lydiate 3120. Add 'D' team to East Region. Thursday. Women's 'A' team, match night Monday.

**TECHNICAL STUDENTS**: Women's team match night Monday.

**WARBRECK MOOR**: Add 'A' team to North Region. Thursday.

**WAVERTREE LABOUR**: Women's team, match night Thursday. Add 'B' Team to South Region. Thursday.

### NEW CLUBS

**BIRDS EYE**: Birds Eye Foods Ltd., Lees Road, Kirkby. Buses 92 92A, 93, 19A, 500 to No. 5 Gate. East Region. Friday. Sec.: R. Gallagher, 18 Thursby Crescent, Southdene, Kirkby. Club: SIM 2421.

**HANSONS DAIRIES**: J. Hanson & Sons Ltd., Long Lane, Liverpool, 9. Bus 61 to factory gate. North Region. Thursday. Sec.: Miss D. Riley, c/o above address.

**STANLEY HOUSE**: 130 Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool, 5. South Region. Monday. Sec.: Mr. Pearson, c/o above address. ROY 4904.

**DIVISION 5**: Delete Aigburth and Litherland C.

**NORTH REGION**: Warbreck A take 'A' fixture; Hansons take Co-op A fixtures.

Continued on Page 9

## Success and Failure

THE league has still further increased the number of teams competing in the Lancashire and Cheshire League this season, by the addition of a second junior team, making in all two men's teams, two women's and two junior.

Ted and Peter Kurnjahn, respectively, have once again been appointed honorary playing captains of the men's first and A teams, while Eileen Mansell again takes charge of the women's first team. The women's A team will be in the very capable and experienced hands of Mrs. Ivy Crafter, who will doubtless be of great help to the players in her side.

Alec Gauld becomes non-playing captain of the first junior side, while Joe Ellison will have a similar role with the A team.

Although as I pen these notes neither of the senior sides has yet begun its league fixtures, both have been in action in the national competitions—the Wilmott Cup and the Rose Bowl respectively.

The men, represented by A. C. Taylor, N. R. Jones and R. Gunnion, duly put paid to Chester's hopes of further advancement in the Wilmott Cup, but the women suffered the indignity of once again being eliminated from the Rose Bowl at the first hurdle, this time by Stockport to the tune of eight sets to one.

### RESOUNDING WIN

Taking the men's tie first, one must give credit to the Liverpool trio for achieving such a resounding victory at the Wavertree Labour Club, although to be fair the Chester side was rather weak and always under pressure. When one considers that of the nine sets played only one required three games to settle the argument, it must have been disheartening for the visitors.

Taylor was in his most dominating mood, keeping his trajectory so low and consistent that the highest number of points scored against him in any of his six games was 14. Norman Jones played well within himself, being content to gain an advantage and keep it.

For young Ralph Gunnion it was a happy if somewhat subdued

baptism, but one cannot do more than win all one's sets and he did just that.

It was an excellent start for the Liverpool team. The next round of the cup will probably be against Burnley or Blackpool, either of which will provide considerably tougher opposition.

Now what of the women's effort against Stockport at the Bohemians club, when Liverpool were represented by Mrs. Moya Jones, Mrs. Joyce Randall and Miss Julie Roberts?

All the Stockport players used the sandwich bat which probably did not help our girls, but be that as it may, Moya Jones was our only winner and one cannot but say that she alone of the Liverpool team appeared capable of seriously challenging the visitors.

It is an unfortunate fact that we are unable to field a side at present to stand up to such teams as Stockport, Manchester and Blackpool. The Liverpool League can surely never have been so devoid of top class women players as it is at the moment, and it is difficult to see a solution to the problem in the immediate future.

### FLYING START

The only team, as I write, to have begun its league fixture is the men's A team, which played Wirral A on the other side of the water. Wally Allanson, John Cain and Ron Jones gave them a flying start with a clear cut 9-1 victory. Here again only two of the sets required three games for a decision. It was a most encouraging win and one cannot help feeling that the team has a grand chance of winning their division on the form shown in the first match.

The main attraction this month will be the clash on Friday, November 20, between Liverpool and Manchester, which will be played at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. at 7.30 p.m. I do recommend this encounter and am sure that spectators will go home well satisfied with their evening's entertainment. The Liverpool team will again be Taylor, Jones and Gunnion.

# PROBLEMS FOR SELECTORS

By J. Pattison

**P**ITY the poor members of the Selection Committee who have to choose players for the two junior teams to represent the League in the Lancashire and Cheshire League. No matter what decision they reach, they are bound to have made a mistake in some people's view.

But no one can accuse us of not trying to do our best. Two trials were held—one at Balfour where there were two tables, and the other at Wavertree Labour—at which 27 of our juniors demonstrated something of their mettle. And quite frankly what the selectors saw was most encouraging and gave hopes of our being able to retain the junior championship of the two-counties league.

The trouble is that only three players can appear in either the first or second teams and there were about four or five youngsters who made great claims for inclusion in the first team and a similar number who did likewise for the second string.

That is the reason why I ask you to pity the poor selectors. Some of the results produced at the trials seemed most contradictory and we had to try and judge whether "A" was a trifle lucky in winning or whether "B" was similarly unlucky in being beaten.

Then, of course, we hear of results in league matches which just play haywire of what we saw at the trials. But I suppose it is all those things which go to make table tennis an interesting game.

In my opinion we must concentrate on the first team and try to get our best players into it while

we can play about with the second team in such a way that we can give half a dozen boys a chance of showing what they can do in keenly competitive matches. Of course, that is simply my own view and it would have to be endorsed by the other members of the selection committee.

In the meantime I would like to ask all the boys chosen to play in either the first or second team to be as helpful to the two non-playing captains—Mr. Alec Gould for the first team and Mr. Joe Ellison, who will be in charge of the second—as were the four who played in our only team last season. Remember those two gentlemen are giving up their valuable time for your benefit.

What I found even more encouraging was that among the 27 who appeared for the trials there were three or four youngsters just reaching their teens who showed great promise. It seemed to me that their clubs had a wonderful chance of developing them into first-class players, as much to their own benefit as that of the league, and I would strongly appeal to the officials of those clubs to see that those youngsters get plenty of coaching and guidance along the right lines.

We seem at the moment to have more young players taking part in league games than we have had for many years. Can we think that this is a good augury for the future? It should be if the senior players of the league will give them the right encouragement and help. They are the players we will look to in the future to uphold the name of the league.

# The Ron Jones Epic

By J. Pattison

**T**WO years ago Trevor Ellis, then playing with the University, provided the big surprise of the Merseyside Open when he came within an ace of beating J. Somogyi, the former Hungarian who is now ranked No. 3 in England and who went on to win the title.

This year it was Ron Jones, of Liverpool Y.M.C.A., who was the surprise packet. But he went one better than Ellis for he beat Somogyi's fellow countryman, G. Muranyi, in a terrific battle 21-14 21-23 21-13 in the third round of the event.

And that was not the whole Jones story for in the previous round he had convincingly beaten the young Welsh international, Colin Thomas, of Llandudno, 21-14 21-13, and still earlier had disposed of Ralph Gunnion, of Bootle Y.M.C.A.

Hopes were running high of a Liverpool player appearing in the semi-finals for the first time for many years, when Jones went on to play Vin Hankey, of Stockport, in the quarter final, but we were doomed to disappointment for Hankey played some great table tennis to beat the Y.M.C.A. player 21-16 21-12.

## STRENGTHENED CLAIM

It must have been an even greater disappointment for Jones but he can look back on this year's tournament with not a little satisfaction for during the several rounds he played some brilliant table tennis. And, incidentally, he must have, at the same time, greatly strengthened his claim for inclusion in the league's senior representative team.

But if we were not to see Jones in a semi-final, we had the consolation of seeing yet another young member of our league in the final of the boys' singles. He was Ted Briscoe, of Liverpool Y.M.C.A., and if he was unable to match the victory of Derek Craig last year, he gave a fine account of himself against Colin Thomas before eventually losing 18-21 16-21.

He, too, must have given the members of the Selection Committee food for thought.

Although this year's Merseyside was disappointing from the point of view of the local entry, especially for the men's singles—causing the usual Friday night's play to be cancelled—there was nothing disappointing about the play seen during the whole of Saturday. The trouble which most of the onlookers found was to select the interesting matches to watch, so many fine games were being played at the same time.

It was probably the most open men's singles for many years and he would have been a brave man who would have gambled on Saturday morning on a victory for Laurie Landry, of Middlesex. He did so by beating Jeff Ingber 21-18 21-15 in the final but must have considered himself a trifle fortunate in finding the Manchester player contribute to his own defeat by hitting several wild shots in each game, all of which cost him valuable points. At the same time one must record that Landry gamely overcame the handicap of cramp in his left leg.

Pam Mortimer, of Birmingham, went one better than on her last visit here when she was beaten in the final by Ann Hayden. It looked at first as though she was to meet the same fate at the hands of Betty Bird, of Surrey, when the latter took the first game, but the Birmingham player fought back to assume command of the set and take the next two games.

For the record here are the concluding results of the tournament:-

## Men's Singles

Semi-final—L. Landry beat V. Hankey 21-9, 21-12; J. Ingber beat J. Somogyi 22-20, 22-24, 21-18.  
Final—Landry beat Ingber 21-18 21-15.

## Women's Singles

Final—P. Mortimer beat B. Bird 16-21, 21-14, 21-14.

## Men's Doubles

Final.—S. Somogyi and G. Muranyi beat L. Landry and R. Crayden 21-17 14-21 21-15.

*Continued on Page 9*

# League Tables

## Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Liverpool Y.M.	6	5	0	1	46	14	11
Victoria Park	6	5	1	0	41	19	10
Bootle Y.M.	6	3	1	2	36	24	8
Balfour	6	4	2	0	34	26	8
Rafters	6	3	1	2	34	26	8
L'pool Y.M. A	5	2	1	2	27	23	6
Oakhill	6	2	3	1	26	34	5
Linnets	6	1	3	2	27	33	4
Bohemians	6	1	3	2	25	35	4
Bath St.	5	1	3	1	22	28	3
Waterloo Pk.	6	0	3	3	23	37	3
Anfield	6	0	6	0	9	51	0

## Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Anfield A	6	5	1	0	41	19	10
Litherland	5	4	0	1	37	13	9
Victoria Pk A	5	4	0	1	35	15	9
Balfour A	6	4	1	1	34	26	8
Waterloo Dk.	5	3	2	0	30	20	6
Rafters A	6	3	3	0	32	28	6
Lucem	6	2	3	1	26	34	5
Bootle Y.M. A	5	2	3	0	26	24	4
Cadwa	6	2	4	0	23	37	4
Bohemians A	5	1	4	0	17	33	2
Litherland A	6	1	5	0	18	42	2
Oakhill A	5	0	5	0	11	39	0

## Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Victoria Pk. B	6	5	0	1	44	16	11
Beauclair	6	4	1	1	41	19	9
R.A.F.A.	6	4	1	1	35	25	9
Bath St. A	6	4	2	0	33	27	8
Waterloo Pk. A	6	3	2	1	30	30	7
Rafters B	6	2	2	2	29	31	6
Fairlawn	6	2	3	1	29	31	5
Linnets A	6	1	3	2	26	34	4
Balfour B	5	1	3	1	20	30	3
Linacre	6	1	4	1	25	35	3
English Elec.	4	1	2	1	15	25	3
Bootle Y.M. B	5	0	5	0	13	37	0

## Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool Y.M. B	6	6	0	0	47	13	12
L.P.A.S.	6	4	1	1	40	20	9
University	5	4	1	0	32	18	8
Cadwa A	6	3	1	2	38	22	8
Sefton	6	3	2	1	31	29	7
Victoria Pk. C	5	2	1	2	28	22	6
Warbreck	6	3	3	0	32	28	6
Harold House	6	3	3	0	30	30	6
Balfour C	6	2	4	0	24	36	4
Litherland B	6	1	4	1	24	36	3
Linnets B	6	0	5	1	13	47	1
Bohemians B	6	0	6	0	11	49	0

## Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wtrloo Dk. A	5	4	0	1	40	10	9
Anfield B	4	3	0	1	26	14	7
Lussac	4	3	0	1	25	15	7
Victoria Pk D	4	3	1	0	25	15	6
Oakhill B	4	2	2	0	23	17	4
Cadwa B	5	2	3	0	19	31	4
Florence Ox.	5	1	3	1	20	30	3
Bootle Y.M. C	4	0	2	2	14	26	2
L.P.A.S. A	5	1	4	0	19	31	2
Bath St. B	4	0	4	0	9	31	0

## Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Telecomms	6	6	0	0	39	21	12
Rafters C	6	4	2	0	37	23	8
Wvrtree Lab.	5	4	1	0	37	13	8
Fairlawn A	6	4	2	0	38	22	8
Wvrtree Bapt.	6	4	2	0	37	23	8
Bohemians C	6	4	2	0	32	28	8
Liverpool P.O.	6	4	2	0	32	28	8
Co-op	6	2	3	1	29	31	5
Huntley & P.	5	1	4	0	17	33	2
Nalgo	6	0	5	1	21	39	1
Domestic Miss	6	0	6	0	13	47	0
Bootle Nalgo	4	0	4	0	8	32	0

## North Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
R.O.F.	6	5	0	1	42	18	11
Wtrloo Pk. B	5	4	1	0	40	10	8
Wrbreck Mr. A	5	4	1	0	33	17	8
Wtrloo Pk. C	6	4	2	0	37	23	8
Lewis's	6	3	2	1	34	26	7
Bath St. C	5	2	1	2	30	20	6
Bootle Y.M. D	5	2	2	1	23	27	5
Anfield D	5	1	2	2	22	28	4
Belling	5	1	3	1	22	28	3
Moss Side	6	0	4	2	19	41	2
Hansons	4	0	3	1	10	30	1
Lewis's A	6	0	5	1	8	52	1

## South Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Fairlawn B	5	5	0	0	42	8	10
L'pool C.C.	5	5	0	0	40	10	8
L'pool Y.M. C	5	4	1	0	42	8	8
Beauclair A	5	4	1	0	36	14	8
Tech. Studs.	5	3	2	0	26	24	6
Crawfords A	6	2	4	0	24	36	4
Oakhill D	5	1	4	0	14	36	2
Crawfords B	5	1	4	0	12	38	2
L'pool C.C. A	3	1	2	0	7	23	2
Wvrtree Lab B	6	0	5	1	18	42	1
Stanley House	2	0	1	1	5	15	1
Eng. Elec. B	2	0	2	0	4	16	0



# LEAGUE TABLES

## East Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wvrtree Lab A	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
St. Ed. O.B.	5	4	0	1	40	10	9
Crawfords	6	4	1	1	42	18	9
L.P.A.S. B	5	3	0	2	33	17	8
Anfield C	6	3	2	1	36	24	7
Eng. Elec. A	6	3	2	1	31	29	7
Nalgo A	5	3	2	0	32	18	6
Fairlawn C	6	2	4	0	20	40	4
Beauclair B	5	1	4	0	15	35	2
Rafters D	5	1	4	0	12	38	2
Birds Eye	5	0	5	0	11	39	0
Oakhill C	5	0	5	0	9	41	0

## Central Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
St. Edwards A	7	3	2	2	34	36	8
Bottle Y.M. Y	6	3	2	1	33	27	7
University A	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
Harold Hse A	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Cadwa Y	5	1	2	2	23	27	4
Linnets Y	5	0	5	0	18	22	0

## Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Rafters	5	4	0	1	39	11	9
Orrell	5	4	0	1	36	14	9
Cadwa	4	4	0	0	38	2	8
Bibbys	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Oakhill	5	3	2	0	29	21	6
Linnets	4	2	2	0	16	24	4
Cadwa A	6	1	4	1	24	36	3
Bohemians	6	1	5	0	18	42	2
Bath Street	3	0	3	0	6	24	0
Waterloo Pk.	5	0	5	0	6	44	0

## Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Huntley & P.	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Sefton	5	4	1	0	35	15	8
Bohemians A	5	3	2	0	31	19	6
Wvrtree Lab	4	3	1	0	28	12	6
L.P.A.S.	4	1	3	0	16	24	2
Orrell A	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
Rafters A	2	0	2	0	6	14	0
Tech. Studs.	5	0	5	0	1	49	0

Note:—South Region, Balfour 'D' record is expunged.

# Secretary's Notes:

*Continued from Page 3*

**SOUTH REGION:** Wavertree Labour B take 'B' fixture; Liverpool C.C. A take Alburgh A fixtures. English Electric A take Balfour D fixtures, Mondav.

**EAST REGION:** Rafters D take 'A' fixture; Birds Eye take Albright fixtures.

**WOMEN'S DIV. 2:** Delete Lucem and Anfield. Wavertree Labour take over 'A' fixtures.

It has been reported to the Committee that certain members have been playing in league matches in the trouser portion of a track suit. The Committee wish to point out that the section of Rule 19 which deals with track suits refers to track suits wholly or in part.

*Continued from Page 6*

## Women's Doubles

Final—P. Mortimer and B. Bird beat W. Swift and M. Leigh 21-9 21-17.

## Mixed Doubles

Final—Landry and Mrs. Bird beat P. Strulovitch and D. Ridgway 21-11 21-16.

## Boy's Singles

Final—C. Thomas beat E. L. Briscoe 21-18 21-16.

## Girl's Singles

Final—C. Blackshaw beat L. Proudlock 15-21 21-11 21-8.

*Continued from Page 16*

We are pleased to welcome to the second division Liverpool Police-women and Technical Students. Though neither of them appears to have got off to a good start, I am sure as the season progresses so their standard will improve. May they enjoy their matches, win or lose.

Sefton and Huntley & Palmer will, I think, be fighting for the top place in the division. Both finished last season just below Waterloo Park and Cadwa A.

Wavertree Labour have improved on last season and opened this term with wins over Bohemians A, Police and Technical Students. They may well prove to be a team to be reckoned with.

## Strong bid by Cain & Co.

**A**FTER four weeks of league warfare, it is pleasing to record the success of a number of the younger players in our division.

Pride of place must go to Ralph Gunnion, of Bootle Y.M.C.A., one of the few unbeaten players to date, who has fully earned his place in Liverpool's Wilmott Cup team by victories over such notables as J. Cain, V. Chesham, T. Ellis, B. Hand, Ron Jones and M. Lijinsky.

John Cain, of Liverpool Y.M.C.A., distinguished himself by beating champion Arthur Taylor in the Y.M.C.A.—Bath Street match, a fine feat for young Cain.

It must be many years since such a young team was able to make a strong bid for the championship, but Liverpool Y.M.C.A. are certainly setting the pace this season and lead by one point from Balfour, Rafter's and Victoria Park.

Surprise result to date was the Bath Street win over Balfour by eight sets to two. Suffering their first defeat in two seasons, Balfour contributed to their own downfall by forfeiting four events due to the non-arrival of two of their star players, Norman Jones and Les Mulholland. It must be remembered, however, that Bath Street were leading by four events to two, with A. C. Taylor and W. Allanson still having an event each to play. A draw or even a win was quite within their reach.

Finally, a worthy mention for veteran John Coveney, of Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A. Coveney has been largely responsible for his newly promoted teams excellent start to the season, with wins over R. Rumjahn, W. Harris, R. Grayson, T. Ellis and B. Townsend.

★ ★ ★

**A**FTER four matches Anfield A are the only team in the Second

Division with a 100 per cent record. In spite of this, however, they have close rivals in Victoria Park A and Waterloo Dock.

The Anfield club has been strengthened by their acquisition of Stan Draper, after 13 years with Bohemians. The team order of Bintley, Sanders, Draper, Cuff and Reg Gray, junior, seems strong but they were not properly tested in the first month of the season. They will probably find that Victoria Park A, Waterloo Dock and Litherland are much tougher opposition.

The Park and Litherland have already met and produced a drawn result. Doubles came from Ken Anderson and Clayton for Litherland, with one set from Killip, while Tarr and Carroll, with two each, and Houghton (one) replied for the Park.

Litherland also had a 6-4 win over Waterloo Dock, thanks mainly to two sets from Killip.

Although it seems early in the season for forecasting, I'll stick my neck out and give Litherland to return to the first division, accompanied by either Victoria Park A or Waterloo Dock.

Rather surprisingly Balfour A have done nothing of note as yet. On only one occasion have they turned out what would appear to be their regular opening order—Davies, Wallace and Eileen Mansell. They have already been beaten 8-2 by Victoria Park A. No doubt Mal Wallace's absence contributed but perhaps Park's table also had something to do with it.

At the other end of the table Bohemians A and Oakhill A look like having a lean season.

An individual note—Caldwa's Arthur Jones did not concede a game in his first four matches, all being won two straight.

# STERN FIGHTS LIKELY

**T**HE first month's result in the Third Division point to Victoria Park B and R.A.F.A. as two of the strongest teams in the Third Division. Both were still undefeated at the end of that period and if their first results are a true indication of their form they will prove difficult to overcome. When the teams met in October the result was a draw, thanks to S. Butchart defeating E. Cameron 24-22 in the third game.

Neither Victoria Park nor R.A.F.A. are likely to get all their own way, however, for several teams will undoubtedly be making a strong challenge to their leadership, with perhaps Beauclair and Waterloo Park A leading the way.

Brian Pardy, of Beauclair, maintained his 100 per cent record during the first month and became the only undefeated player in the division.

Players with seven wins out of eight sets included J. Roberts (R.A.F.A.), Mike Truman and B. Capper (Victoria Park B) and H. Reeve (Linacre).

Balfour B have made a disappointing start to the season. Last season when playing in the Fourth Division they lost only one league match but already they have been beaten by Fairlawn (7-3) and Beauclair (9-1), both of which look like convincing defeats.

Admittedly they routed Bootle Y.M.C.A. B to the tune of 10-0, but the Bootle team contained some very inexperienced players. It therefore looks as though the Balfour side are going to find it tough going in this division this season.

★ ★ ★

**W**ITH the 1959-60 season only a month old, the first results indicate that the Fourth Division

is going to produce a keen and close contest for promotion and an equally keen fight at the other end to avoid relegation.

Leading the division with four victories to their credit are the strong Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B team. The inclusion in their ranks of G. Smith and Ted Briscoe has already brought them successes over the Police and Cadwa A, two of the teams which appear most likely to be challenging them for honours at the season's end.

Incidentally the Y.M.C.A. B and the University are the only teams with 100 per cent records at the end of a month's play, and Bohemians B, unfortunately for them, are the only team still pointless.

The University have been strengthened this season by the signing of Mel Snyder, who last season played for Harold House, and they could be the team to upset the Y.M., especially if B. Jacobs, who makes a rare appearance for them, is available for those matches.

Victoria Park C drew two of their first three games, against the Police and Cadwa A, and although they have used the same five players in each match they have appeared in a different playing order on each occasion, which doesn't usually make for good results.

At the bottom of the table, Linnets B and Bohemians B will both need strengthening if they are going to avoid relegation at the end of the season.

Everybody will be pleased that Litherland B, after a pre-season withdrawal, have re-entered the fray of the division and the general hope will undoubtedly be that they enjoy a successful season.

# TELECOMS' BRIGHT START

**T**HE withdrawal of Litherland C and Aigburth from the league has hit the Fifth Division badly and the result is that on average only four matches are played each week. We must be doubly glad therefore that the further withdrawal of Florence Oxton, which at one time looked certain, was avoided and that the Mill Street club, who have been members of the league for so long, have been able to continue.

For years they have worked on a minimum of players so that the loss of a couple of them was a much more serious blow for them than it would have been for most clubs. Fortunately they have been able to recuperate their strength and continue to play.

All the other teams in the division will be more than glad that this has been possible, not only for the fact that the loss of yet another team would have made a hash of the division, but also because one is always assured of a good sporting game at the institute.

With things so uncertain it was not surprising that after opening the season with a convincing win over Bath Street B fortunes declined at Mill Street in the following weeks, but under the leadership of Eddie Moran they could easily improve and make Florence Oxton worthy opponents for any team.

As it is after the first month's play Waterloo Dock A and Anfield B held the joint leadership of the division, both, oddly enough, having dropped their single point in their opening matches. The Railwaymen, however, held a slight advantage in sets average.

Hard on their heels came Lussac and if the draw to which they held Waterloo Dock in the first match is any indication of future events, we are going to see all three teams

fighting it out for the leadership of the division.

At the time of writing Lussac have an outstanding match to play with Oakhill B. There was apparently some dispute about the match and the Management Committee have ordered that it must be replayed.

Bath Street B are out on a limb for at the end of a month's play they had still to collect a point. But they need not be too down-hearted for three other teams, Bootle Y.M.C.A. C, Police A and Oakhill B, were only able to register one victory each in the same period.

★ ★ ★

**T**ELECOMS have made an excellent start to the season in the Sixth Division. Out of their first four matches they had four wins to their credit. Compare this with last season when during the whole term they won only seven matches. It certainly looks as though they will improve on that total this term.

Much of their success has been due to C. L. Jones and D. P. Lowe, both of whom conceded only one game in the first month of play, both, incidentally, to Bootle Nalgo.

Wavertree Labour are going to prove strong candidates for promotion. Convincing wins over Wavertree Baptists (8-2), Domestic Mission (8-2) and Liverpool Post Office (7-3) indicate the strength of the Labour Club's team and opponents will find that Farquharson, Chaloner, Hurworth and McEvoy are a formidable combination to beat.

Other players with good results during the first month included G. Fletcher (Co-op), L. French (Fairlawn A), C. Barton (Bohemians C) and R. Blackmore (Rafers C). Each lost only one game during that period.

# Making Their Mark

On the other hand there are three players in the division who had still to register their first victory. Let's hope their luck changed quickly, for it's no fun being continually on the losing end.

★ ★ ★

**T**HE Royal Ordnance Factory are certainly making their mark on their return to the league after an absence of several seasons. After dropping a point in their opening match against Bath Street C in the North Region they went on to take their next three games, including among their victims Waterloo Park B who could well be one of the most serious challengers for the region championship.

Much of R.O.F.'s success has undoubtedly been due to their No. 1, P. Wilkinson, who in his first month's play conceded only one set—to young Chris Coveney, who beat him 21-19 21-15. Apart from that set his hardest tasks have been to beat A. Rumph, of Waterloo Park B, to whom he dropped the first game 22-24 and then went on to take the next two 22-20 21-17, and to defeat R. Reynolds, of Warbreck A (21-16 16-21 21-17).

Their next most successful player was P. Scott, who won five of his first eight sets, two of them when beating B. Crummy and A. Hurst (Bootle Y.M. D), the latter after being dropped in the team sheet from No. 2 to No. 3.

One of R.O.F.'s best victories was that scored over Warbreck A by six sets to four, when M. Starky gave his skipper fine support by beating C. Stock (21-12 22-20) and P. Griffiths (21-16 22-20).

It was the only defeat which the Warbreck team suffered in the first month, during which their most successful player was G. Hill. He must be one of the most useful No. 5's in the region for he won all his eight sets in that period and was only once taken to three games. That was by D. Connell, of Bath Street, when the scores were 13-21 21-18 21-17 for Hill.

Warbreck are also fortunate in having a player of the calibre of J. Millin available when they want him. He played in two of the first four matches and on each occasion won both his sets, first at No. 3 and then at No. 1.

Threatening to make as strong a challenge as their B team are Waterloo Park C. Their one defeat in the first month was at the hands of Warbreck and even then were only beaten 6-4 when playing a reserve in E. Joyce.

★ ★ ★

**T**HE leadership of the South Region certainly looks as though it will be a tough battle this season, with four clubs unbeaten in the first month's play, Liverpool Y.M.C.A. C and Liverpool C.C. both having won their first four matches and Fairlawn and Beauclair their first three.

Out of their four games the Y.M.C.A. dropped only three sets and two of those were to Linnets C who have now dropped out of the league and for whom only two players turned up for the match. Ken Jones, who won the two sets for Linnets in that game, is now playing well in the fourth division.

Nevertheless the Y.M.C.A. record is an impressive one and it is obvious they are going to take some beating.

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# Quintet of Aspirants

In the same period the Cricketers conceded the same number of sets as the Y.M., two of which were lost in their first match of the season against Crawfords A when Mrs. D. Lewis was the unfortunate victim. In L. Lewis they have a fine No. 1, as his record for the first month showed. During that period he was scarcely troubled by any of his opponents. Only once was he taken to three games—by J. Dunan, of Balfour D.

Beauchair A have now John McKim playing at No. 1 and he made a highly successful start to his season. He carried off all six sets in his first three matches and was only once really extended—by J. Higham, of Oakhill D, when he needed three games to win.

There is obviously very little to choose between all five of the Fairlawn B team. The three sets they lost in their first three matches were dropped by their Nos. 1 and 2, Evans losing to Higham of Oakhill and Wilcox of Wavertree Labour, Carter also being beaten by Higham.

At the other end of the table Oakhill, Crawfords B and Wavertree Labour were still looking for their first victory at the end of the month. Indeed, the general outlook at the Crawfords club must be pretty grim for their A team secured only one victory to their credit and their B team won only four of their first 40 sets.

Taking a general look at the region thus early in the season, it looks as though it will be split into two distinct halves, with a strong portion at the top and a weak one at the bottom.

★ ★ ★

**T**HE East Region is, at the time of writing, a very open competition, with Police B, Crawfords, Anfield C, Wavertree Labour A and St. Edward's O.B. all getting off to a good start.

To hazard a guess as to the eventual champions of the region would, at this stage, be unwise but from the matches I have seen and the score cards to date, it would seem obvious that one of those five will finish at the top.

New team St. Edward's are the big surprise, and with their No. 1, G. O'Keefe, and their No. 2, T. C. Smith, both unbeaten in the first month's matches. their future looks very bright.

Police B, relegated from the Sixth Division this season, have only conceded one point so far and that was to St. Edward's. It seems a pity that their hopes should always be overshadowed by their inability to turn out their strongest side each week. This is obviously due to their fluctuating hours of duty.

Wavertree Labour must have thought themselves favourites at the start of the season—and who can blame them? After heading the table for almost the whole of last season, they struck a bad patch just when promotion was within their grasp and finished third. The inclusion of N. Hambleton, relegated from last season's first team, has added strength to an already solid looking side.

I saw part of the Wavertree Labour-Crawfords match, which turned out to be quite an exciting game. At one point Crawfords were trailing 1-4 but they put up a terrific fight and narrowed the gap to 4-5 before eventually losing 4-6.

The last and deciding set of the match was a real cracker between R. Thomas, Wavertree's No. 2, and the red-headed C. Hoare, Crawfords' No. 1. Thomas won in straight games 21-19 25-23 but this must have been his toughest game this year.

# A YOUNGSTER TO WATCH

**T**HE Central Region is essentially a "young" division for half of the players are under 16 years of age and several of them only just entering their teens. It is fitting therefore that one of the youngest of them should be the subject of the first comments of the season.

At Bootle Y.M.C.A. there is a 12-year-old, by name Gordon Birch, who is delightful to watch. He is not yet a great stroke player (or he would be in a higher team), but he gets "stuck in" in a way which shames many seniors, and if he loses a point he gets even more "stuck in" to win the next. Not many players in the region will beat him in his present position, and if he keeps it up he will soon find himself promoted.

Ivor Chazen, of Harold House, should go through the season without suffering many defeats. That also applies to F. O'Shaughnessy, of St. Edward's, but these are seniors.

Of the juniors, R. Myers, of Cadwa, and Tony Green, of Linnets,

have both won more than they have lost, and both at No. 1. Judy Crafter, of Cadwa, has beaten boys of her own age, and for a young girl that is a remarkable achievement.

Lower down the teams, Michael Deane (Cadwa) is the man the put on at 5-4. He doesn't get troubled by nerves. Nor does Arthur Stringfellow (Linnets) and both will improve as they get practice and experience.

For the rest all seem to have in-and-out form, but here again experience will iron out the difficulties.

After the first month Harold House had yet to be defeated and Linnets Y had still to gain their first point, but anything can happen in a region so full of dead-keen players and there is little doubt that there will be a decided rise in the standard of these teams before the season comes to an end.

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# Championship Problem

THE 1959-60 season has got into its stride and most of us are wondering what it will bring forth. Have we got any up and coming junior players? I can only think of one—Judy Crafter, daughter of Rennie and Ivy Crafter, of Cadwa. As yet she has not got a regular place in either Cadwa's first or second women's team but I have little doubt that she will soon make her presence felt.

Judy is only 14 years old and it is a great pity that we have not got a few more like her coming along so that we can build up a really good inter-city team. If there are any young players in your club, please encourage them all you can. There seem to be quite a lot of keen boys but the girls are in the minority.

Will Cadwa or Rafterts take over the women's championship this season now that Balfour have dropped out? Both teams were more or less level pegging last season and both have started off on the right foot by having comfortable wins in their first few matches.

## Sound Victories

Cadwa, with a 10-0 victory over Waterloo Park, 9-1 over Linnets and 10-0 over Bath Street, look as though they have really got back into their stride. Gloria Burns's return has no doubt strengthened them considerably and they should have no difficulty in claiming either the first or second position in the table.

Their second team is not in such a happy position. They have just come out of the second division and are probably finding the opposition a little tougher. Nevertheless they seem to be having some very good matches, even if they are at the losing end. Miss E. Hook, who has played at either No. 1 or No. 2, has had two good victories to her credit. She defeated Reg Royle, the Liverpool champion, in straight games, which was an outstanding performance, and Billie Illidge, of Orrell, in a three-game set. I feel that she is going to be a player to

be reckoned with.

Rafterts also put up some very good performances in their first few matches, beating Oakhill 10-0, Bibbys 9-1 and drawing with Orrell. Elizabeth Loughrey has also started well, with good wins over Lil Lacey, Edna Moore and Reggie Royle.

Reggie doesn't seem to have had a very good start to her season. There is no doubt that holding the women's championship title has a psychological effect on one, especially when one knows that everybody is after your blood. It makes the games keener and the other player more determined to win.

Waterloo Park, back once more in the first division, are having a struggle. They have lost badly to Orrell, Oakhill and Cadwa and will have to do much better if they want to remain in the premier division.

Bohemians, too, will have to pull up their socks if they want to stay in the division. This season they are without Barbara Tomkinson, who has decided to play in the mixed division.

## Lowers Standard

The gradually dropping out of players from the women's divisions is considerably lowering the standard among the women players and only, perhaps, by altering the rules and allowing the women to play more than 26 matches so that they can play in both the mixed and women's divisions will the standard tend to rise.

If a girl is keen enough to improve over a season she will want to keep up that improvement and it is only by playing with the men that she will do so. Perhaps next season, if the rule is altered, a lot of the women who have drifted out of the women's teams will come back into them again.

One thing about the women's matches is that they have a friendly atmosphere and I am sure that the Balfour women are missing those matches, if only for the laugh and the gossip they used to have.

*Continued on Page 9*