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**TABLE
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LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE *Digest* TENNIS

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February, 1960

No. 3

AN ONEROUS TASK

THE job of a team selector, be it for club, league, county or country, is an onerous one and anyone who allows himself or herself to be coerced or cajoled into accepting such a position knows full well that he or she is certain to have more critics than supporters. Two essentials are necessary—an honest opinion and the skin of a rhinoceros.

Having said that let us at once declare that because we believe that the Lancashire county selectors are honest in their opinions we do not intend to join the band of critics who have been somewhat vociferous following the selection of Arthur Taylor for the match against Lincolnshire.

The trouble is that the choice of Taylor was delayed until this year when his form has not been as consistent as it was a couple of years ago when the League officials first pressed for county recognition for him. What a pity our recommendation was not then acted upon. There could have been little justification for any criticism. They did not, however, and we do not intend to criticise that decision any more than we do their latest one.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS

IN our December issue we wrote about the standard of play among our women players. This has brought a response from Mr. Ron Jones, of Liverpool Y.M.C.A., whose letter is reproduced on Page Two. May we express our thanks to him for his obvious interest in the subject and for his letter.

Mr. Jones' contribution is, as can be found from reading it, completely constructive. For that reason alone we are indebted to him, but we are also indebted to him for the suggestions it contains.

Already one of the suggestions made in that letter—that "friendly" matches should be arranged for the women with some men's teams—has been followed up and a couple of matches played. We would welcome invitations from other clubs willing to co-operate, for we are convinced that the proposal can produce results. It is also hoped to follow up the other suggestions in the hope that the interest, opposition and incentive which Mr. Jones says is needed, will be found.

Incentive Is Needed

THE following is the letter received from Mr. Ron Jones, of Liverpool Y.M.C.A., to which reference is made in our editorial:

Interest, opposition and incentive are needed to send the standard among Liverpool's women players sky high. Look at my club, the Liverpool Y.M.—last season a poor fourth though our second team was promoted. During the summer, however, Everton Y.M. joined us and stimulated interest, which, with coaching, produced excellent results.

What then would stimulate interest in women's table tennis. These are my suggestions:

1.—A fortnightly or monthly singles tournament (matches organ-

ised in blocks of four to avoid normal systems).

2.—A weekly invitation to leading clubs on a round robin system.

3.—Odd friendly matches against league teams, e.g. women's first team v a Second Division team.

Initial coaching of the younger beginners would also help as early faults are always hardest to eradicate. But the really important thing is to bring the top players together as often as possible. After all one cannot play in a vacuum.

It should also be noted that my third suggestion would have to be carefully regulated to avoid lopsided results.

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TURNING THE FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT

By John McKim

AS mentioned here previously, medals are definitely out as prizes this season. Some very attractive plaques are being purchased for league and divisional champions, and a slightly different type of plaque for cup runners-up. Cup winners this season will receive, instead of miniature cups, reversible trophies, and all the above plaques and reversible trophies will have gilt sports centres.

Naturally these prizes will cost a little more than the medals given in previous years, but we hope, particularly if you win one, that you will consider it money well spent.

Talking of costs, this increase in outlay on prizes coupled with the loss on the Mersey-side Open and increasing administration costs, means that unless we have a fantastically good Closed in April (from a financial point of view), there is bound to be a loss on the season as a whole and quite a substantial loss. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that this loss does not occur by accident but is the natural outcome of the financial policy of your committee which has now been in force for a couple of years.

Steady Increase

Costs during this period have risen steadily, costs such as telephone bills, postage, printing, etc., but with the large bank balance the league holds it would be ridiculous to increase affiliation fees to enable us to show a profit each year. Running at a loss I can assure you breaks the treasurer's heart, and quite rightly a tight string is kept on the League's purse by him, but the loss will be kept as low as possible.

Whether the present state of affairs continues is up to you. With reasonable support for the Merseyside Open and Liverpool Closed we could run for many years

without increasing the cost to you of your table tennis, but repeated high losses on these two events could mean that the committee will have to bring proposals to the A.G.M. in the not too far distant future for an increase in fees.

The governing body of the game in England is not, we feel, in so fortunate a position. Heavy losses have been incurred for the past two years and the E.T.T.A. have not such large funds (comparatively speaking) on which to draw.

It appears possible that they will once again suggest at the A.G.M. a levy on all members of the Association—and that means you. This scheme was brought up at the annual meeting last year when the figure mentioned was 1/- per player, but opposition was so strong, several leagues threatening to sever their connections with the E.T.T.A., that the idea was shelved for further thought.

If the same opposition is met with this year and the E.T.T.A. has not matched its expenditure to its decreasing income, the national body may find itself in trouble. Who knows, one day the E.T.T.A. may apply to the Liverpool League for an interest-free loan.

It appears that owing to the last issue of the *Digest* being posted just before Christmas, a number of people did not receive their copy. If anyone has not yet obtained this copy and they will contact the treasurer, Mr. S. D. Cameron, who holds the balance of the issue, he will send a copy on to them.

Entry forms for the Closed, to be held at Dingle Vale School on April 20 to 23, will be enclosed in the next issue of the *Digest*, which should reach you on about March 17. Please return your forms early so that the officials concerned can make all the necessary arrangements before the Easter holidays.

These Are Your Letters

PUNCTUALITY

I HAVE seen it previously stated in the *Digest* that 10.30 p.m. is a reasonable time for league matches to finish, and also, on many occasions, pleas for matches to start promptly at 7.30 p.m. and in my experience three hours is ample time to complete a match.

As far as my club, the University, is concerned, we are allowed the use of our room only until 10.30 p.m. and it is essential that matches should finish before that time.

However, there appears to be an unwritten amendment to the league rule (or possibly players just can't tell the time) that 7.30 p.m. equals "some time vaguely after eight o'clock", for I have rarely known a match to start before eight.

It has frequently happened at away matches that the whole University team has arrived before any member of the home side, to be confronted with a dark and deserted clubhouse and to embark on a cold and dismal 15 or 20 minutes seige.

A rather different problem faces us at home. Matches start at the usual Liverpool League time and at 10.30 p.m. we are frantically placating the caretaker of the gymnasium and extracting another five or ten minutes to complete the match. In a recent game this was not possible. The visitors arrived at intervals between 7.45 and 8.20 p.m., the match began at 8.10 and the ninth set completed at 10.40. The University had to concede the tenth set.

Now the University loses enough played sets and does not want also to give them away. We should therefore like to draw the attention of Division 4 teams that for the remainder of the season we

intend to apply Rule 23 rigidly and any player arriving after eight o'clock can look forward to forfeiting a set. We also think it might instil a better sense of punctuality into Liverpool League members if other clubs did the same.

We would appeal to visitors to arrive early so that any unpleasantness can be avoided.

—LEWIS ROSENBLOOM
(University)

ABOLISH REGIONS

AS a regional player of many years standing, I would like to see the regions abolished and replaced by a seventh, eighth, ninth and even tenth division if necessary.

I can see no justification for the present system. It is certainly not justified geographically, and, in view of the present ranking system, it just does not make sense when a club with more than one team in the regions, finds that its third team is playing in the same region as another club's first team, while both these clubs have second teams in another region.

I would suggest that at the end of the present season the top team in each region should be promoted to the sixth division. The bottom four teams in that division, with the teams finishing second and third in each region, should form the new seventh division. The teams finishing lower in the regions should then form the lower divisions.

I believe that this system would increase the enjoyment of the less talented players in the league by doing away with the one-horse races that the regions so often become.—E. W. STURGESS

(Beauclair)

CLOSED FINALS VENUE

I AM sure it was a great disappointment to many table tennis players and supporters when you again decided to hold the finals of the Liverpool League Closed Championships on a Saturday evening at the Dingle Vale School.

This is the one evening in the week when every form of entertainment is at a peak. Why try and compete with theatres, cinemas, dancing etc., which are packed to capacity on Saturdays?

A suggestion would be to play the finals on the following Monday night at a more central venue. Apart from a larger attendance this would enable everybody to have better transport facilities if there was a late finish.

These arrangements have been successful in the past, and I would mention one finals evening in particular, held at the Wavertree Labour Club, which was considered well supported and very enjoyable.

You will agree that the Closed Championships should be the "Highlight of the Season", both for the competitors and spectators. Therefore all possible ways should be considered to this end.

What happened to the December issue of the *Digest*? This year was the second in succession I have not received my copy. Also I know for a fact that a number of other league members did not receive their copies this December. Your comments would oblige.

Still on the subject of the *Digest*, the divisional reports, and league tables are often many weeks behind the times. You will see a report covering the top positions in a division, quoting "the two leading teams are level on points" when on the date you receive your *Digest* there is a difference of three to four weeks results which have to be added on if you want an up to date picture of the league positions.

—G. E. BRADSHAW

(Liverpool Y.M.C.A.)

Editor's Note: Mr. Bradshaw's complaint about the non-delivery of the *Digest* is dealt with in the *Secretary's Notes* on Page Three. On his second point we must point out that a certain time lag between the writing of the divisional notes and their publication is unavoidable, however much we regret it. We try to keep it down to a minimum.

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Smiles All Around

IT is in happier vein that I write this month, with none of our city teams in danger of relegation, not even the women's first team, thanks to a good win over Oldham by eight sets to two.

The main credit for this must, of course, go to Mrs. Moya Jons, who is having an excellent season; and Mrs. Casselman who was more or less coerced into playing in this match. These two players won all their three singles events. Even allowing for Mrs. Casselman not quite reaching her former high standard she did enough, however, to prove that she is by no means a spent force, and can rise to the occasion still.

Mrs. Jones, I fancy, must be considering herself unfortunate to be continually overlooked by the county selectors. Her only defeat this season by a Lancashire player was early on by the narrowest of margins to Miss Swift, who herself played recently in the county match against Lincolnshire at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. Perhaps the error and omission can be put right in due course.

AMPLY JUSTIFIED

From the women's first to the men's first, and we see a very satisfactory story. With one match yet to be played—against Wirral on Friday, February 19, at Huntley & Palmer—the team has the fair enough record of Played 5, Won 3 and Lost 2. The prospects of a further win are rosy, and I shall be surprised if the team fall at the last fence.

I feel that the team as currently constituted, is as strong a side as Liverpool has had for a number of seasons. The inclusion of Ron Jones, of Liverpool Y.M.C.A., has been amply justified by his record of 83 per cent., which figure represents 10 wins out of 12 sets played.

This does not detract from the performances of either Arthur Taylor or Norman Jones, quite the

reverse. It has helped all three players to give that extra little bit, which I saw on a recent visit to Nelson with the team, which resulted in a 10 nil win. It was good to see the Liverpool League dishing it out, instead, as has so often happened in the past, being on the receiving end.

It must be very satisfying to Arthur Taylor to be chosen for the recent county match against Lincolnshire, and is the culmination of a lot of skill and endeavour. Taylor's talent I do not think has ever been doubted by knowledgeable people, but the climb up the ladder is nearly always a tough business, and ultimate selection for a county side I am sure must have been very sweet for Arthur. It is well deserved, and I trust that it will be the forerunner of many.

STILL UNDEFEATED

Apart from Mrs. Crafter's women's A team who are having a very good season indeed, being undefeated in three matches as I write, it looks very much as though the men's A team are going to carry off their division. Unfortunately, or otherwise, no league may have more than one team in the premier division, which automatically rules out the question of further promotion for the team, but it would not detract from their performance, nor prevent them from being awarded the honours which would be due.

So far, with matches against Mid-Cheshire and Chester still to be played, the former at the Police club in Anfield Road, on Friday, February 26, the team is undefeated, having dropped only one point to Southport early on in the season.

Finally to finish on a humorous note. If anyone is interested in transporting city teams around Lancashire or Cheshire, they ought to have a bent for nocturnal wandering. My own trip to Nelson ended in Crosby at 1.30 a.m., but pride of place must surely go to

Continued on Page 9

League Tables

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool Y.M.	14	13	0	1	101	39	27
Balfour	14	10	4	0	89	51	20
Rafters	15	8	4	3	87	63	19
Bootle Y.M.	15	8	5	2	93	57	18
L'pool Y.M.A	14	7	4	3	76	64	17
Bath St.	14	7	5	2	77	63	16
Victoria Pk.	14	7	7	0	70	70	14
Bohemians	15	3	8	4	64	86	10
Linnets	14	2	8	4	59	81	8
Oakhill	14	3	9	2	50	90	8
Anfield	15	4	11	0	50	100	8
Waterloo Pk	15	1	9	5	48	102	7

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Litherland	15	14	0	1	108	42	29
Vic. Pk. A.	15	12	1	2	108	42	26
Balfour A.	15	9	2	4	90	60	22
Waterloo Dk	15	9	4	2	92	58	20
Anfield A.	15	8	5	2	86	64	18
Bootle Y.M.A	15	7	6	2	80	70	16
Rafters A.	15	5	8	2	73	77	12
Cadwa	15	6	9	0	60	90	12
Lucem	15	4	9	2	60	90	10
Bohs A.	15	4	11	0	52	98	8
Litherland A	15	3	11	1	51	99	7
Oakhill A.	15	0	15	0	40	110	0

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Vic. Pk. B.	15	13	1	1	113	37	27
Beauchair	15	9	4	2	88	62	20
Bath St. A.	14	9	4	1	81	59	19
R.A.F.A.	14	8	3	3	78	62	19
W'loo Pk. A	15	6	5	4	73	77	16
Rafters B.	15	6	6	3	73	77	15
Balfour B.	14	5	5	4	66	74	14
Fairlawn	15	4	7	4	71	79	12
Linacre	14	4	8	2	61	79	10
Linnets A.	14	2	8	4	59	81	8
Eng. Elec.	14	3	10	1	54	86	7
Bootle Y.M.B	15	3	11	1	53	97	7

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool Y.M.B	15	14	0	1	121	29	29
University	15	11	3	1	93	57	23
Harold Hse	15	11	4	0	89	61	22
L.P.A.S.	15	8	6	1	80	70	17
Vic. Pk. C.	15	7	5	3	77	73	17
Cadwa A.	14	6	5	3	78	62	15
Warbreck	15	7	7	1	76	74	15
Balfour C.	14	7	7	0	69	71	14
Sefton	15	3	8	4	62	88	10
Litherland B	15	4	10	1	61	89	9
Bohs B.	15	2	12	1	49	101	5
Linnets B.	15	0	13	2	35	115	2

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Lussac	12	9	0	3	86	34	21
W'loo Dk. A	12	8	2	2	78	42	18
Vic. Pk. D.	11	8	2	1	70	40	17
Anfield B.	12	8	3	1	74	46	17
Oakhill B.	12	7	4	1	68	52	15
Flo. Ox.	12	5	5	2	61	59	12
Cadwa B.	13	3	9	1	50	80	7
L.P.A.S. A.	12	2	9	2	45	75	6
Bootle Y.M.C	12	1	9	2	38	82	4
Bath St. B.	12	1	10	1	30	90	3

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wav. Labour	15	14	1	0	119	31	28
L'pool P.O.	15	11	4	0	98	52	22
Wav. Bapt.	15	11	4	0	96	54	22
Fairlawn A.	15	11	4	0	93	57	22
Telecomms	15	10	3	2	88	62	22
Rafters C.	15	7	5	3	74	76	17
Nalgo	15	5	7	3	71	79	13
Bohs. C.	15	4	9	2	61	89	10
Co-op	15	3	9	3	65	85	9
Huntley & P	15	4	10	1	60	90	9
Bootle Nalgo	15	1	13	1	42	108	3
Dom. Miss.	15	1	13	1	33	117	3

North Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
W'loo Pk. B	15	14	1	0	128	22	28
R.O.F.	14	12	1	1	103	37	25
War. Mr. A	15	10	4	1	95	55	21
Bath St. C.	14	8	3	3	88	52	19
W'loo Pk. C	15	8	6	1	85	65	17
Belling	15	6	6	3	75	75	15
Lewis's	14	5	5	4	77	63	14
Bootle Y.M.D	12	3	6	3	47	73	9
Moss Side	13	3	8	2	50	80	8
Anfield D.	15	2	10	3	41	109	7
Lewis's A.	14	1	11	2	29	111	4
Hansons	12	0	11	1	22	98	1

South Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool Y.M.C	14	13	1	0	117	23	26
L'pool C.C.	13	13	0	0	107	23	26
Fairlawn B.	15	11	2	2	111	39	24
Beauchair A.	15	10	3	2	99	51	22
Stanley Hse	14	8	4	2	79	61	18
Crawfords A	15	6	9	0	63	87	12
Crawfords B	14	4	8	2	55	85	10
Tech. Studs.	15	4	10	1	49	101	9
L'pool CC A	14	3	9	2	45	105	8
Oakhill D.	15	3	11	1	47	103	7
Eng. Elec B	14	3	10	1	46	94	7
Wav. Lab. B	14	1	12	1	45	95	3

LEAGUE TABLES

East Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
St. Ed. O.B.	15	13	0	2	118	32	28
Crawfords	14	11	2	1	103	37	23
Wav. Lab. A	14	11	2	1	98	42	23
L.P.A.S. B	15	10	3	2	99	51	22
Anfield C.	14	6	5	3	77	63	15
Beauchair B	14	6	6	2	63	77	14
Nalgo A	14	6	7	1	66	74	13
Eng. Elec. A	15	6	8	1	69	81	13
Rafters D.	15	3	9	3	48	102	9
Fairlawn C.	15	3	10	2	56	94	8
Oakhill C.	13	1	10	2	36	94	4
Birds Eye	14	0	14	0	27	113	0

Central Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Cadwa Y.	13	8	2	3	75	55	19
University A	8	5	2	1	46	34	11
Bootle YM Y	11	4	5	2	52	58	10
St. Ed. A	11	4	5	2	52	58	10
Linnets Y.	11	1	8	2	45	65	4

Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Cadwa	12	11	1	0	101	19	22
Oakhill	13	11	2	0	94	36	22
Rafters	12	8	2	2	81	39	18
Orrell	12	8	3	1	79	41	17
Bibbys	13	8	4	1	68	62	17
Linnets	12	5	6	1	53	67	11
Bath Street	11	2	8	1	36	74	5
Cadwa A.	12	1	9	2	41	79	4
Bohemians	12	2	10	0	31	87	4
Waterloo Pk.	11	0	11	0	14	96	0

Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wav. Lab.	10	8	2	0	81	19	16
Huntley & P	9	7	2	0	63	27	14
Bohs. A	9	7	2	0	62	28	14
Sefton	9	7	2	0	61	29	14
L.P.A.S.	7	2	5	0	27	43	4
Rafters A	8	2	6	0	27	53	4
Orrell A	8	2	6	0	25	55	4
Tech Studs	10	0	10	0	4	96	0

Note:—

All outstanding matches must be played before the end of February.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. D, with the approval of the league, took over Aigburth fixtures in Division 5 on a friendly basis. All clubs were notified but unfortunately many clubs although initially agreeing are not

honouring this commitment. If, for any reason, clubs cannot fulfil the fixture they should notify the Y.M.C.A. secretary in advance.

SEMI-FINAL

DATES — VENUES

THE draw for the semi-final ties of the four cup competitions, with the venues and dates, is as follows:—

READMAN CUP

L'pool Y.M.C.A. v Waterloo Park at Bath Street on Friday, February 19.

Bath Street v Balfour at Bootle Y.M.C.A. on Friday, February 26.

RUMJAHN CUP

Bath Street A v Victoria Park B at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. on Tuesday, February 23.

Victoria Pk. C v L'pool Y.M. B at Wavertree Labour on Friday, February 19.

HYDE CUP

L'pool C.C. v St. Edward's O.B. at Sefton Friday, February 19.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. C v R.O.F. at Victoria Park on Friday, February 26.

BARTHOLOMEW CUP

Rafters v Bibbys at Oakhill on Friday, February 26.

Cadwa v Oakhill at Bohemians on Friday, February 19.

Continued from Page 6

Wally Allanson who took the men's first team to Burnley a few weeks ago. Wally somehow contrived to arrive back in Liverpool (with the team, of course) at the dreadful hour of 3.30 a.m. I will not be mean and tell you what happened, but I will give you a clue in one word—PETROL.

Footnote. Ron Jones, who was in the party from Burnley, was due out of bed in Neston at 5.30 a.m. Gosh, what we will do for table tennis.

A Creditable Debut

CONGRATULATIONS to Arthur Taylor on his selection for Lancashire, writes Ken Jones. It is a long time since we had a player from Liverpool representing the county, and Arthur made a creditable debut in the match against Lincolnshire, winning one singles and losing the other 21-19 in the third. Partnered by Winifred Swift, of Manchester, he also won the mixed doubles event.

Turning to League matters, Liverpool Y.M.C.A. have increased their lead to seven points and now seem assured of the championship. Each year interest in our division seems to diminish as the league leaders run away from their nearest rivals, with the result that the spotlight falls on the teams in the relegation zone.

This season the battle for survival embraces no less than five teams, virtually half the division! It would take a brave prophet to name the two who will go down, although it looks very ominous for Waterloo Park.

FORTUNES CHANGE

When our last notes were published, Anfield did not have a single point to their credit—now they have eight! Their change of fortune seems to date from the inclusion of George Sanders in their first team. Sanders has certainly celebrated his promotion winning most of his first ten events. Well done, Anfield!

Only two points separate four teams—Linnets, Oakhill, Anfield and Bohemians—and it will be interesting to watch the performances of this quartette in the next few weeks.

Finally, on behalf of those who have fought, argued and "pushed" with him over the years, may I send our good wishes to Mike Lijinsky whose business career has taken him down South. In these days of lukewarm interest we can ill-afford to lose such enthusiasts and his absence will be felt in all three of Merseyside's leagues. Good luck, Mike!

Incidentally, I hear that Mike is teaming up with Beryl Watterson to play in a tournament in London.

★ ★ ★

THE fight for the leadership of the Second Division has undergone a sudden change, writes our correspondent. And the reason—Litherland's 6-4 victory over Victoria Park A. on the Park's own table.

Chew and Clayton were the architects of Litherland's win by winning four sets between them, but what a task Chew had on each occasion. Against Mason he won 21-15 in the third and against Tarr 21-19 in the third. Killip and Lott got the other two for Litherland, while Hudson, Mason, Carroll and Tarr won one each for the Park.

Park, however, should not worry too much, for they still look good for promotion.

It is at the other end of the table where the main interest lies. Oakhill A. still pointless after 13 matches, can have little hope of avoiding relegation—the problem is who goes with them. Neither Cadwa, Lucem, Bohemians A. nor Litherland A. can feel secure and the odd thing is that each have been busy neutralising the victories gained by their rivals.

Bohs got two good and invaluable wins over Bootle Y.M.C.A. and Anfield A. the former 8-2 and the latter 6-4. Against Bootle, Bohs had new Nos. 1 and 2 in Alf Vicars and Geoff Baker and their success makes one wonder why they were not there before. Baker has followed up with another double against Anfield, including in his victims Fred Cuff.

Cadwa gained a hard-won victory over Lucem when no fewer than four of the seven sets they won required three games to reach a decision. Their win was due, in the main, to Tobin, Westhead and young Bob Eden, each of whom won their two sets, Brackley adding the seventh.

IMPROVEMENT AT BOOTLE

FIRST item of news in this month's report on the Third Division must concern the improvement in Bootle Y.M.'s results, says Brian Leeson.

The team has been at the foot of the division all season and at one time it looked as if relegation was certain. In the last few weeks, however, wins over R.A.F.A. and Rafters B; both by six sets to four, and a draw with Balfour B have given Bootle a more respectable number of points and they could even save their position. Against R.A.F.A., T. Jones and K. Hunt each won two sets, while against Rafters, Jones and W. Whorton were double winners.

Bath Street A had a remarkable 10-0 victory over Balfour B. It would seem ridiculous to describe this as a close game but you might change your mind when you learn that no fewer than eleven games went to deuce while four sets were decided on a deuce game—all in Bath Street's favour. What a frustrating night for Balfour.

UNEXPECTED JOLT

Victoria Park B received a jolt from Linnets A when the home side gave the Park their first taste of defeat. Although Park were minus Mike Truman (stranded in the fog), Linnets' win was a commendable one. D. Underhill and E. Gaul both won two events for Linnets while Eddie Cameron got the only double for the Park, the result being 7-3 in Linnets' favour.

Underhill, by the way, is still undefeated after six matches for Linnets while Truman, after 12 league games, has lost on only one occasion.

It's a pity to see English Electric so near the bottom of the division. After relegation from Division 2 last year, it looks as though they are going to find it a struggle to remain in this division. They must be congratulated, however, for playing a regular team and, more important, for always keeping their correct team order and resisting the

temptation to switch positions in their search for points.

★ ★ ★

ONE thing has emerged from the past month's play in the Fourth Division, reports Bert Ariss—the vast superiority of Liverpool Y.M. B over the rest of the teams in the division.

They convincingly defeated the University, their nearest rivals, by seven sets to three, even though the University included B. Jacobs in their side. He certainly played his part by beating G. Smith, the Y.M.'s No. 1, 21-12 22-20, to inflict on Smith his first defeat of the season, but the University tail offered little resistance and the Y.M. finished worthy winners.

Harold House have made steady progress lately and are seriously challenging to climb into the second position. A further defeat to the University by six sets to four, at the hands of Victoria Park C, has made the situation wide open.

MYSTERY TEAM

The Park are the mystery side of the division. They have the talent to upset any of the other teams but their record is not impressive and the relegation problem has not been solved by their failing to put in an appearance for the match against Litherland B. This hardly seems fair to Bohemians B who had only the previous week beaten Litherland 8-2.

The inclusion of M. Looker in the Balfour C side has added the necessary strength for them to climb the table. They have recorded good victories over Linnets B, Sefton and Warbreck in the past few weeks. Joyce Randall's defeat of Sefton's Bill Davis, 21-14 21-14, merited the highest praise.

Cadwa A have not been able to maintain their early season form and are greatly missing young Bob Eden. The introduction of Maureen Robinson into their side makes the division's tally of women players a formidable one.

LUSSAC STILL UNBEATEN

PRIDE of place in the Fifth Division in this month's notes must go to the bottom club, Bath Street B, for their victory over Bootle Y.M.C.A. A by six sets to four, writes John Cawley.

It was Bath Street's first win of the season and a major part of it went to Larson who beat both Atkins and Greener in straight games.

At the top Lussac remain undefeated although they have been held to a draw on three occasions. Both Waterloo Dock A and Oakhill B took points from the leaders in hard fought games.

Imundi and Glover played vital parts for Oakhill in their tussle with Lussac.

TEAM PROBLEMS

Victoria Park D are fighting hard to keep up with Lussac, and Cope, Price and Jones are winning most of their sets. Anfield B beat Waterloo Dock 8-2 at Waterloo, with Stirling, Bunner and Holland winning all their sets for Anfield and Kilshaw winning his two for Waterloo. The Dock team will not have to lose any more matches if they want to keep in the promotion race.

My own club, Florence Oxtan, are not having a very good season, due mainly to the difficulty of playing a regular team. However, Mansfield, Moran and McCarten, when available, are playing quite well. The Police B are in the same boat as the "Florrie" regarding fielding a regular side and Conroy and Carlisle are winning most of their sets.

Cadwa B, with Jones and Richardson playing well, are a team who could give the top sides a shock. Both Victoria Park and Oakhill just scraped home against them in tight games, both results being 6-4.

AFTER ten successive defeats Domestic Mission and Bootle Nalgo gained their first league point when their match at the Mission ended in a draw, reports Brian Leeson. It was a vital game for both teams. Nevertheless, the pair seem booked for relegation. W. Wright won two sets for the Mission while J. McMorran won two for Nalgo.

The Mission have since beaten Bohemians C 6-4 at the Bohs club, a match in which T. McVey and L. Garrett each won twice for the Mission. Bohs seem to have fallen away lately, which seems disappointing after such promising start to the season.

Rafters C had a good win at Wavertree Baptists, where the twins, Pinky and Bluey, won two each. Against an improving Nalgo side, however, Rafters could only draw. L. Harper won his two sets for Nalgo and has now won 12 out of his last 14 sets. Co-op have slipped a bit of late and although they have a reliable player in G. Fletcher at No. 1, the rest of the team seem inconsistent.

100 per cent. RECORD

P. Hurworth (Wavertree Labour) retains his unbeaten league record, with 24 sets out of 24. His nearest rivals for the leading position include C. L. Jones (Telecoms) and L. French (Fairlawn A), both with 22 wins out of 26; W. Shiel (Post Office) with 21 wins, and B. Phillips (Fairlawn A), F. Farquharson and C. Chalonner (Wavertree Labour) all with 20 wins.

Congratulations to Miss B. Pinnington (Huntley and Palmer) on her first victory. It must be very disheartening to lose every week. It might be some consolation for her to know that my records show two other players still without a win in Division 6, while at least a dozen have not yet won five sets.

Waterloo's Revenge

AFTER leading the North Region for the first half of the season, the Royal Ordnance Factory have been deposed from their exalted position, reports our correspondent. In their place now stand Waterloo Park B, who achieved it by beating their rivals in the return match at Waterloo and so revenging the sole defeat which had been inflicted upon them.

In the December issue of the *Digest* it was stated that the Park team were only waiting their chance to get at their rivals and they certainly grasped it in no uncertain manner.

Their revenging victory was no mean one for they were successful by the wide margin of eight sets to two and only one of their winning sets required three games to settle the issue. But the scores of the match can speak louder than words. Here they are (Waterloo names first):—

C. Coveney lost to P. Wilkinson 17-21 21-16 17-21; beat F. Skelly 21-11 21-10. A. Rumph lost to Wilkinson 23-21 5-21 15-21; beat P. Scott 21-9 21-14. A. Horwood beat Skelly 21-19 21-13; beat C. Shiers 21-10 21-16. A. Turner beat Scott 21-12 21-18; beat N. Smith 21-15 21-11. B. Wood beat Shiers 24-26 21-13 21-18; beat Smith 21-14 21-12.

FOUR OUT OF FIVE

But the team that has wrought the biggest change to their league record has been Bath Street C. They have almost doubled the number of points they have obtained since the last tables were published. This has been the result of four victories out of five matches.

Three of their victories were gained over teams which were then higher in the table, namely, Lewis's (6-4), Waterloo Park C (6-4) and Warbreck A (7-3). Undoubtedly the last named was the outstanding success and was chiefly due to the "doubles" scored by J. Connell and A. Rawlinson. The former beat D. Berry 21-10 21-19 and F. Vaughan 21-12 19-21 21-18, and the latter disposed of Vaughan 20-22 21-16 21-17 and G. Hill 21-10 21-19.

F. Waterfield (Berry 21-13 21-8), W. Larsen (C. Stock 21-12 22-24 21-15) and B. Lunt (Stock 21-11

21-16) got their other three sets.

The position at the bottom of the table remains unchanged, with Hansons still seeking their first victory. But even if they can't raise a winning flag they do not appear to be disheartened by the fact.

★ ★ ★

SINCE our last issue St. Edward's Old Boys have continued to lead the East Region, says Ron McEvoy. Their only setback, or rather partial setback, was when they were held to a draw by Wavertree Labour A.

The match was marked by the first defeat for the Old Boys' T. Smith at the hands of T. Owen, playing his first game for the Labour Club. Seventeen-year-old Owen won in straight games 21-19 21-15. Since then Smith has lost to W. Wood (Crawfords) and T. Carter (Police).

The Old Boys' other unbeaten player, C. O'Keefe, also lost his record in the match with the Police when J. Catterson beat him 21-17 21-23 21-14.

At the other end of the table, *Bird's* *East* *Region* *to* *battle* *bravely* *on*, still pointless. Their best result has been to hold Oakhill to a 6-4 defeat. Oakhill now seem favourites for the next bottom position, although Fairlawn C and Rafter's D are also candidates.

A POOR SHOW

It does not give me any pleasure to recount the following incident but I am sure that most clubs will agree that it should be brought to light.

For some time I have heard whispered complaints regarding the inability of Anfield C to turn up on time. As most regional sides prefer to play their sets rather than claim the latecomers' sets, Anfield have got off scot free, that is, except for the occasion of their "star turn" when hosts to English Electric.

In this instance only two of their team bothered to turn up at all. This is a very poor show, Anfield, and I sincerely hope that your own club have taken you to task for pulling down the good name that your clubmates have worked so hard to acquire.

BOUND FOR HIGHER SPHERES

I have just heard that T. Owen and P. Byrne, of Wavertree Labour, have been selected to represent the L.B.A. on their tour in Ireland. Congratulations and best wishes to them.

★ ★ ★

THE very close battle at the top of the South Region continues to be fought out, reports Peter Meyer. So far it has swung slightly in favour of Liverpool Cricket Club, who are now the only undefeated team. Pushing them very close, only two points behind, are Liverpool Y.M.C.A., while Fairlawn, Stanley House and Beauclair are also going hard for honours.

One of the main reasons for the Cricket Club's success has been their strength at Nos. 4 and 5 where their two women players, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. B. Topping, are winning their sets with consistency.

Wavertree Labour, despite having won only one game and drawn another, are showing considerable improvement with their new signings. Their sole win was a 10-0 one over Technical Students. It was quite a feat as the Students have a couple of very useful players. The Labour Club also took the region leaders to 6-4, which was an excellent show.

Oakhill, after a promising start to the season, have dropped away very badly. And in the doldrums, too, are English Electric.

★ ★ ★

THE resignation of Harold House A has seriously depleted the Central Region which now consists of only five teams and with only five matches played since I wrote the notes for the last issue of the *Digest*, there is very little of note for me to write about this month, reports Jim Green.

There is no doubt that Myers and Deane, of Cadwa, are future material for the club's higher teams; and there can also be little doubt that Judy Crafter will soon be making a strong challenge for their women's first team.

At Linnets, Tony Green and Arthur Stringfellow will undoubtedly move up next season, and if his present improvement continues so will Ronnie Gaul.

ON RIGHT LINES

Up north at Bootle, the whole team are playing so much along the right lines that it is obvious they will be pushing some of the seniors down before long. I still like these lads as future prospects. Only age and experience is against them at present.

My wee friend Gordon Birch has now been moved to No. 1 in the Bootle Y team. The change should do him good, even if he does not achieve the same unblemished record, it will speed him up considerably.

That is the major fault with the majority of the players in the Central Region—speed. And I don't mean the speed of the shot but the speed of their footwork. Getting into the right position, with the feet properly placed at the right time.

It is difficult to make young players believe this fundamental rule of table tennis, but to try to make the arm movements correctly with the feet "all over the room" usually results in the ball going just where it wasn't intended—more than likely off the table or into the net. Nearly all the losing shots played in this region are due to badly placed feet and once this fact is driven home, some of these youngsters are going to go places.

Now I wonder if there are any teams in other regions who would like to play a friendly match or two with some of the Central teams. I would be only too glad to arrange. It would mean an extra game and would add to the season's enjoyment for our sadly depleted little band. I would appreciate it if any club willing to do so would get in touch with me.

Few Vacant Places

IT was quite a heartening sight to see the number of spectators who turned up for the county match against Lincolnshire at Liverpool Y.M.C.A., writes Jack Pattison.

It is rare that we see nearly 100 people at a table tennis match on Merseyside, the vast majority of whom had paid two shillings for admission. Indeed, had many more people sought admission it could easily have meant the posting of a "House Full" notice for there were few vacant seats in the hall.

These facts, plus the arrangements made by the league's Management Committee, have brought forth praise from the Lancashire officials who have confessed that had the match been played in Manchester or any other town in the county the "gate" would have been nowhere near as great.

It was a pity therefore that those who attended did not see a full strength Lincolnshire team oppose Lancashire as a reward for turning up on a bad-weather night. Neither of Lincolnshire's two strongest players, Skerrat and Scheader—the latter through illness—were in the team and as a consequence the match did not produce the table tennis it might well have done.

Nevertheless, there were moments when we saw some first class play and when even Jeff Hughes had to produce his best to achieve success.

There is no doubt that the inclusion of Arthur Taylor, of Bath Street, in Lancashire's team was one of the reasons for so many people being at the match and con-

sidering that it was his first county match he did Liverpool credit.

It was unfortunate that the rules of the match should dictate that he play the first set of the evening for I feel sure that had his appearance on the table been delayed so that he could have acquired the atmosphere of the match, he would not have been Lancashire's only loser.

It may seem strange that with all his experience Taylor should suffer from nerves but it must also be remembered that this was his biggest-ever occasion. As it was he was only just narrowly beaten in the third game and his later play fully justified the claims that the league's officials had put forward for his being given county recognition.

I thought he showed up best in the mixed doubles set when he partnered Winifred Swift. His fine sense of doubles play was undoubtedly a great asset to the partnership and his ability on many occasions to spot the vital hole in their opponents' defence was one of the features of the game.

All in all, despite the absence of Skerrat and Sheader, it was an interesting evening that even the odd spot of rain which came through the Y.M.C.A. roof on the table did not mar. In fact, if anything, it caused quite a few smiles.

Here is another date worth noting—Friday, March 4, Lancashire Juniors v Durham Juniors, at Balfour. This could be something; and admission is free.

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LIVERPOOL 1

Challenge of Oakhill

WHO is going to top the women's first division this season? At the moment Cadwa have a two points lead over their nearest rivals, Oakhill, who surprisingly beat Rafters by eight sets to two.

Now the question arises whether Cadwa can keep their lead or whether Oakhill will pip them on the post. They have still to meet in the return fixture and one wonders whether Oakhill can again reverse a result (Cadwa beat them 9-1 last time) as they did against Rafters.

At the bottom of the table Waterloo Park are still pointless, while Bohemians and Cadwa A have each only four points.

PROMOTION BOUND

In the second division Wavertree Labour are maintaining their lead over Huntley and Palmer and Bohemians A and it is more than likely we shall see them playing in the senior division next season.

Apologies to Barbara Taylor and Lil Parkes for stating in the last issue of the *Digest* that Susan Hook (Cadwa) had beaten them. The facts were the other way about—Susan was defeated by both Barbara and Lil.

Edna Moore switched her team for Oakhill's match with Rafters, playing Mabel Francis at No. 1 instead of her usual position of No. 4. It was a successful move though judging from the score of 8-2 it would have mattered little where she played for she beat both Jean Reynolds and Elizabeth Loughrey.

The fact that Rafters were without Rosemary McMullen must have made a difference but one wonders how much it would have been.

Rafters' defeat by Oakhill followed their very good 6-4 win over Cadwa when Jean Reynolds played well to beat both Pauline Lawrenson and Gloria Burns. Elizabeth Loughrey, Rosemary McMullen and Doris Tynan added one set each, while Pauline, Betty Black and Ivy Crafter each won one of their sets and the doubles were shared. Quite

a few of the sets went to three games.

Bibbys had a close struggle with Orrell before winning 6-4. Reg Royle had two very hard matches against Billy Illidge and Lil Lacey, winning each set in the third game. A. Woods had a much easier win over Mrs. Illidge, beating her in straight games, and also defeating E. Bray. Lil Upton won her two sets for Orrell and Mrs. Lacey beat M. Baron.

The Linnets-Bath Street match was another tight affair, Linnets just winning 6-4. M. Harris defeated both Barbara Taylor and Lil Parkes; M. O'Donnell also beat Barbara but lost to B. Ellam; L. Wynne beat Lil but lost to B. Murphy and C. Churchill defeated B. Murphy and lost to B. Ellam. Once again the doubles were shared.

DEMORALISING

The second division match between Huntley and Palmer and Bohs A ended in a 6-4 win for the latter, due chiefly to Nora Langan and P. Cassidy each winning their two sets. Wavertree Labour are scoring some very good 10-0 wins which must be rather demoralising to their opponents if gratifying to themselves. They have also done well in the Bartholomew Cup and only lost to Bibbys by three games after drawing on sets in a replay.

The semi-finals of the cup have produced two interesting ties—Rafters v Bibbys and Cadwa v Oakhill. On paper the final should be between Cadwa and Rafters but in cup ties anything can happen and there is no doubt that both Bibbys and Oakhill will do all they can to upset form.

Will the lady who played in the trials at Balfour before Christmas and who left a white nylon blouse and underskirt in the cloakroom please contact Joyce Randall at Sefton Park 6425. Joyce has been minding them since that night. They are size 38.