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*Official Magazine*

OF THE

**LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

# TABLE *Digest* TENNIS

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Vol. X

March, 1960

No. 4

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## IN SEARCH OF YOUTH

IT would be very interesting to learn how many junior players we have in the league—that is players under the age of 17 at the start of the season. We feel that the number would be revealing, yet after it was proposed at the last Annual General Meeting of the league that there should be a youth division the result was the nomination of three teams.

It is, of course, obvious to anyone with the slightest knowledge of the membership of the league that there are quite a number of clubs at present who could not possibly enter such a team, but we are nevertheless convinced that there are sufficient clubs in the league who could, so that it would be possible to have a large enough division to make it interesting. What then is the reason? Is it because many of the junior players feel that the play and competition they would get in a youth division would not be good enough and not as strong as that they meet in the open divisions?

It is on the youth of the league that we must rely for our future membership. They are the players who will take the place of the older members of the league when the latter put up their bats. But they are also the players who will help to keep the clubs going when that occurrence does happen. Surely therefore it is up to the clubs to invest in such insurance for future days.

It was with such a view in mind that officials of the league tried to find a link between our organisation and the Liverpool Boys' Association and in furtherance of that idea may we now suggest that some of our clubs might consider the possibility of nominating a team for our youth division from a few of the L.B.A. clubs.

This may seem something of a revolutionary suggestion, but surely it must have some advantages which would be mutual. Would it not lead to many of those boys becoming regular members of their parent clubs? In such a way the club could obtain a regular flow of recruits.

## A Satisfactory Season

by Jack Pattison

**A**LTHOUGH our senior junior team (to use what seems to be a paradox) have not done as well this season as they did last term when they won the championship of the Lancashire and Cheshire Youth Division, we can look back on the season with considerable satisfaction, especially when we take into account the performance of the A team.

Greatest satisfaction lies in the fact that the season has shown that Liverpool is not without its budding talents. In Ted Briscoe and Roy Smith, of Liverpool Y.M.C.A., and Bob Eden and Rodney Myers, of Cadwa, we have four boys who could become worthy representatives of the city. And the list does not end with those four players. There are several others whose potential is considerable. The problem is how to bring out that potential.

Quite frankly, I think that the first place where this should be done is in the clubrooms and I would like to learn that some of our senior

players have the interest of their clubs, their younger members and the league, so much at heart that they are prepared to spend time and energy in improving the standard of the youngsters. It is only by such practice—and plenty of it—that we can produce the players who can keep Liverpool's flag flying.

In pre-war years, when Liverpool was a power to be reckoned with in table tennis circles, it was by such means alone that international players were made. What coaching the young players received was from their own senior clubmates, and while I do not suggest that the League should not undertake any coaching at all, I do suggest that the real spade work can be done in the clubs.

It is, however, also up to the young players to co-operate by a ready willingness to practice, and by practice I do not mean going to the club and enjoying a few sets with one's friends. Practice means

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## LACKING IN MANNERS

By John McKim

I WOULD like to comment on two letters which were published in the last issue of the *Digest*. The first is the letter which called upon players to arrive on time for matches.

As a player who lives in the outskirts of the city I fully appreciate the need for players to arrive on time so that matches can finish at a reasonable hour, but I would also like to see players leaving matches at the correct time—when the match is finished.

It is obvious that from time to time circumstances may make it impossible for players to remain to the end of the match, but it would appear that some players regard it as the correct thing to do, to play their two sets and then leave. This, apart from showing a great lack of team spirit, shows a lamentable lack of good manners, particularly when the offending player is a member of the home team.

### LEFT CUP MATCH

I was particularly surprised at one of the recent cup semi-finals at which I was present, to see a member of one of the teams walk out after playing his second set not knowing if his team were in the final or not. I wonder, if his team had won, would he have been able to spare the time to wait until the end of the final to receive his replica or plaque?

There are rules in the book to deal with the player who arrives late, but you cannot make rules to deal with bad manners. It is up to you to show your disapproval of such conduct.

The second letter on which I would like to comment was the one concerning the abolition of the regions in favour of divisions seven, eight, nine, etc. Whilst not wishing to take any sides in this matter I would like to point out that the matter is not so simple as it would appear from the letter published.

The writer quite rightly pointed out that in certain cases a club's A team was playing another club's B team, whilst their B team was playing another club's first team. This obviously is wrong, but short of placing a team which plays in the south end of the city in the North

Region, this kind of thing cannot be avoided whilst clubs have two or even three teams in the regions.

### WORSEN POSITION

To re-arrange the new divisions seven, eight, etc. as was suggested would make the position even worse in certain cases, because if the top four clubs from each region formed the seventh division and the next four formed the eighth division and so on, it would be quite possible for a club to have its B team in the seventh division and its A team in the eighth division. This would surely be very little improvement on the present position.

One other point to bear in mind is that a new club joining the League now, if it is a strong team, can get into the sixth division in one or perhaps two seasons. Under the suggested new system, no matter how good it was it would take at least three seasons to reach the Sixth Division.

One final point—whether you play in the First Division the Sixth Division or the regions, we want your entry for the "Closed" as early as possible. The form is inside the *Digest*. Post it now. You may forget later.

### Continued from Page 2

studying every aspect of one's game—footwork, strokes, attack and defence, tactics, weaknesses and all the other points that go to make up table tennis. All these things must be practised and advice from older players heeded.

All this, of course, sounds very dull and uninteresting—not nearly so enjoyable as going to the table and having a real ding dong battle with a friendly rival. Quite right, it isn't, but that is the only sort of practice that gets a player anywhere.

I would therefore, like to make a strong appeal to all our younger players to really get down to the question of practising properly. It could make such a difference to one's play; it could mean eventually getting somewhere in the game, and it would mean that they would also get considerably more personal satisfaction from their play in league matches or in tournaments. It is really worth while.

## THREE - ASIDE MATCHES BETTER

THE editor of the *Digest* has received a letter from Mr. Glyn Jones, the former Oakhill player who contributed our notes on the second division. Mr. Jones is now living in Middlesex and is playing with one of his firm's teams—he works for Kodak's. In the belief that his letter will be of interest to Liverpool League players generally we print the following extracts from it.

These  
Are Your  
Letters

"I must say that I find the same spirit here as I did in Liverpool, but the standard is much higher among the better players here.

"I feel I may be able to offer one or two constructive comments:

"Firstly, the local league is Harrow and Wembley and I am told it is one of the strongest leagues in the country. A year or two ago there were fifteen divisions. Now there are ten. The standard varies tremendously from the first to the second division and from the second to the third, but afterwards the difference is negligible. The essential difference is that teams are three aside, which I find much better.

"This should gladden the hearts of the Management Committee? The E.T.T.A. dress regulations are ignored altogether down here. In spite of the comments at the last

Liverpool A.G.M., things could be worse in Liverpool.

"The last issue of the *Digest* contained a letter from E. W. Sturgess suggesting the abolition of the regions. After talking to Frank Moore a couple of week-ends ago and seeing the system here of ten divisions, I must wholeheartedly agree with him.

"And now the most important—the Liverpool Closed. I have just played in the Harrow and Wembley Closed. Not a patch on the Liverpool. The organisation was weak. The lighting was uneven and the whole competition (apart from the finals night) took place over five evenings, with play usually starting late. There were no barriers around the playing area, no provisions for spectators (and very few of them) and totally inadequate changing accommodation.

"One feature, however, was extremely interesting. The better players were seeded and the remainder drawn in groups of four. Each player in a group played the other three and the one with the best record went through to play a seeded player in the next round. This guaranteed each competitor three sets and removed the necessity of a not very enthralling consolation event.

"I seriously put forward the idea for the consideration of the Management Committee. For some reasons players like Alan Rhodes and Laurie Landry did not enter the tournament, leaving Michael Close to win the men's singles.

"By the way, congratulations to Arthur Taylor. He may be interested to know that his name is known to the Middlesex Committee.

"I am hoping to see my old club-mate John Dancaster some time and I may also bump into Mike Lijinsky, although the latter event is less likely since Mike is living in Reading."

## COMPULSION

**Y**OU have asked for constructive suggestions with regard to the Women's Divisions.

Would it not be better to make it compulsory for women to play in the Women's Divisions? In this way the leading women players would give assistance to those who have remained loyal to the Women's Divisions and simply because all women would be playing therein, the divisions would give plenty of competition to the best in Liverpool.

There is still no reason why our women members cannot practice with the men of their own clubs, and generally speaking, there are very few of them who can offer much competition to the males against whom they are playing, outside the regions.

Up to now, by virtue of their sex, they have had the best of both worlds, being able to play in both Women's and mixed divisions, just as the mood has faken them, yet even the poorest of men cannot play in other than the mixed divisions. Not altogether fair.

Some clubs have no women's teams, but they have quite enough players to form women's teams should they so desire, but they prefer to play against the men.

One other point is that, as things stand now, the clubs with women's teams can count the women twice for registration purposes. They all act as reserves for men's teams. You can work that one out for yourself.—James R. Green(Linnets).

## A PROTEST

**I** HAVE just read this month's *Digest* and am surprised to read Ron McEvoy's comments on Anfield C's match with English Electric. Mr. McEvoy's "getting off scot free" is, in my opinion, unjust.

Mr. McEvoy says that only two players "bothered to turn up". I would like to point out that on that occasion there were two players present. I myself was working until 8 p.m. and went straight to the match and arrived at 8.40 (without having had a meal). A further member of our team, who had also been working late, arrived five minutes later.

On my arrival I was surprised to discover that English Electric had claimed the match.

I would like to remind Mr. McEvoy that before reporting on matters and games one should get the facts right, so as not to confuse the players concerned. I would also like to point out that the sportsmanship of Wavertree Labour and English Electric is, in my opinion, very low and it would be a sorrowful day for table tennis in this city if all clubs had the same attitude.

Since I joined Anfield club and played in the East Region I have enjoyed my games until this present season. If the teams concerned had played in the true spirit of the game these reports would not have been necessary.

*(Editor's Note: Unfortunately the writer of the above letter omitted to sign it, but as it bore his address we decided to publish it).*

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# Liverpool To The Fore

by Jack McCaig

**T**O possess two teams which have won their respective divisions, and to have also two current county players, is quite something of which to be proud. Such is the outcome of this season's battles which are now all but over for a few more months.

First let us congratulate the men's A team, and also the women's A team for virtually carrying all before them this season. Neither team has suffered defeat, and possibly the greater achievement has been that of the women, who have not the resources of the men in a playing sense.

The only thing that marred the season for the women was the failure of the Wirral team to fulfil their fixtures at the Oakhill club recently. This was a re-arranged fixture, agreed upon by both sides, and the non-appearance of the Wirral side was a big disappointment, and not exactly complimentary to the Oakhill officials, who are always so willing to help the league. The match has had to be claimed as a walk-over, which gives the women a record of played 6, won 6.

## TEAM AFFAIR

The main credit for this accomplishment is shared by Miss Julie Roberts, Mrs. Joyce Randall, and Mrs. Gladys Rimmer, all with records of about 80 per cent, whilst Miss Muriell Wilcox and Mrs. Betty Black also made their contributions in the early matches. For Mrs. Ivy Crafter, for whom it was her first season as non-playing captain, the success of her team must have given her much pleasure and satisfaction.

Peter Rumjahn also, must take a lot of satisfaction from the knowledge that his A team has won the Second Division West with an undefeated record. Two recent victories, those against Mid-Cheshire and Chester by margins of 7-3 and 9-1 respectively, ensured that their nearest rivals, Blackpool, could not overhaul them.

The burden of work in the team has been shared almost equally by Wally Allanson, Vic Chesham, David Ferguson, Ralph Gunnion, and Les Mullholland, all of whom boast averages of 75 per cent or more, with Ron Jones, until his promotion to the first team, and John Cain, making their contribution also.

Although the team cannot, by the rules of the Lancashire and Cheshire League, play in the first division, the awards of suitable trophies will be made just the same.

## FINAL MATCHES

The men's first team match with the Wirral League had to be postponed, but is being played at Huntley & Palmers' on March 11, with A. C. Taylor, Norman Jones and Ron Jones as the team.

The women visit Blackpool on Friday, March 25, for the completion of their fixtures, when Mrs. Moya Jones, Mrs. Bluey Casselman and Mrs. Pauline Lawrenson will again represent the league.

It would not be fair to exclude from the congratulations, the choice of Ron Jones to play for his native county, Cheshire, in the important promotion match against Durham, which, thanks to Ron's two singles wins and his doubles victory in partnership with Miss D. Wright, ended in Cheshire winning by six sets to four.

Having watched Ron Jones play on a number of occasions this season, it is not difficult to see why he has replaced Eric Johnson in the Cheshire side, and it will surprise me if he fails to gain selection on many more occasions. It would do many of our younger players good to go along to a league match and watch Ron perform. He plays the game fairly but ruthlessly, and is an object lesson in concentration and above all uses his brains. Well done, Ron!

# League Tables

## Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool Y.M.	20	16	0	4	141	59	36
Balfour	20	15	4	1	134	66	31
Rafters	20	11	5	4	118	82	26
L'pool YM A	19	11	4	4	107	83	26
Bath Street	20	11	6	3	111	89	25
Bootle Y.M.	20	10	8	2	116	84	22
Victoria Pk.	19	8	10	1	87	103	17
Bohemians	20	5	11	4	85	115	14
Oakhill	19	5	12	2	71	119	12
Anfield	20	5	15	0	71	129	10
Waterloo Pk	20	1	12	7	67	133	9
Linnets	19	2	13	4	74	116	8

## Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Litherland	20	18	0	2	143	57	38
Victoria Pk A	18	15	1	2	133	47	32
Balfour A.	20	12	4	4	119	81	28
Waterloo Dk	18	11	5	3	110	70	24
Bootle Y.M A	19	9	7	3	102	88	21
Anfield A.	19	8	8	3	102	88	19
Rafters A.	19	6	10	3	89	101	15
Cadwa	20	7	12	1	82	118	15
Bohs. A.	20	7	13	0	77	123	14
Lucem	19	5	11	3	76	114	13
Litherland A	18	4	13	1	66	114	9
Oakhill A.	20	1	19	0	51	149	2

## Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Vic. Pk. B.	20	17	1	2	146	54	36
Beauchair	20	12	4	4	120	80	28
R.A.F.A.	20	10	5	5	110	90	25
Bath St. A.	19	11	6	2	106	84	24
Balfour B.	20	8	6	6	101	99	22
Wtrloo Pk A	20	8	7	5	94	106	21
Rafters B.	18	8	6	4	96	84	20
Fairlawn	20	7	9	4	101	99	18
Linacre	19	7	10	2	86	104	16
Linnets A.	20	3	13	4	80	120	10
Eng. Elec.	20	4	15	1	76	124	9
Bootle, YM B	20	3	16	1	64	136	7

## Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool YM B	20	18	1	1	161	39	37
Harold House	20	16	4	0	123	77	32
University	19	14	4	1	120	70	29
Vic. Pk. C.	19	9	6	4	99	91	22
L.P.A.S.	19	10	8	1	103	87	21
Cadwa A.	19	8	7	5	104	96	21
War. Moor	20	8	10	2	94	106	18
Balfour C.	20	9	11	0	92	108	18
Sefton	20	5	9	6	88	112	16
Litherland B	20	5	14	1	80	120	11
Bohs. B.	20	3	14	3	72	128	9
Linnets B.	19	0	17	2	44	146	2

## Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Lussac	15	12	0	3	109	41	27
Anfield B.	16	12	3	1	105	55	25
Wat. Dk. A	16	10	2	4	101	59	24
Vic. Pk. D.	16	10	4	2	96	64	22
Oakhill B.	17	9	7	1	90	80	19
Florence Ox.	16	6	7	3	79	81	15
L.P.A.S. A.	16	4	10	2	64	96	10
Cadwa B.	16	3	10	3	63	97	9
Bottle YM C	16	2	12	2	54	106	6
Bath St. B.	16	1	14	1	39	121	3

## Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wav. Lab.	20	18	1	1	163	37	37
Wav. Bap.	20	16	4	0	134	66	32
L'pool P.O.	19	15	4	0	129	61	30
Fairlawn A.	20	14	6	0	125	75	28
Telecomms.	20	12	5	3	111	89	27
Rafters C.	20	9	7	4	97	103	22
Co-op	20	6	10	4	92	108	16
Nalgo	20	6	11	3	95	105	15
Huntley & P	20	5	13	2	76	124	11
Bohs. C.	20	4	13	3	72	128	11
Bootle Nalgo	19	2	16	1	54	136	5
Dom. Miss	20	1	18	1	42	158	3

## North Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wat. Pk. B	20	19	1	0	171	29	38
R.O.F.	20	18	1	1	152	48	37
Warbreck A	19	13	5	1	121	69	27
Bath St. C.	20	12	5	3	124	76	27
Lewis's	20	8	7	5	113	87	21
Wat. Pk. C.	18	10	7	1	100	80	21
Belling	20	8	9	3	97	103	19
Bootle YMD	18	7	7	4	87	93	18
Moss Side	19	4	13	2	71	119	10
Anfield D.	19	2	14	3	45	145	7
Lewis's A.	19	1	16	2	42	148	4
Hansons	18	0	17	1	27	153	1

## South Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool C.C.	20	18	0	2	162	38	38
L'pool YM C	20	18	1	1	165	35	37
Fairlawn B.	20	14	3	3	142	58	31
Beauchair A.	20	12	6	2	121	59	26
Stanley Hse	20	11	6	3	112	88	25
Crawfords A	20	7	12	1	85	115	15
Crawfords B	19	5	12	2	70	120	12
Eng. Elc. B	20	5	13	2	69	131	12
L'pool CC A	20	4	12	4	68	132	12
Wav. Lab. B	20	4	13	3	78	122	11
Oakhill D.	19	3	12	4	66	124	10
Tech Studs	20	4	15	1	55	145	9



## LEAGUE TABLES

### East Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
St. Ed. O.B.	20	18	0	2	161	39	36
Crawfords	20	16	3	1	145	55	33
Wav. Lab. A	20	16	3	1	143	57	33
L.P.A.S. B	19	11	6	2	113	77	24
Beauclair B.	19	9	8	2	84	106	20
Anfield C.	19	8	8	3	103	87	19
Nalgo A.	20	8	10	2	92	108	18
Rafters D.	20	6	10	4	77	123	16
Eng. Elec. A	20	7	12	1	88	112	15
Fairlawn C.	20	6	12	2	81	119	14
Oakhill C.	20	2	16	2	58	142	6
Birds Eye	19	0	19	0	35	155	0

### Central Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Cadwa Y	16	9	2	5	92	68	23
University A	12	8	2	2	75	45	18
St. Ed. A	15	6	6	3	77	73	15
Bootle Y.M.Y.	15	4	8	3	61	89	11
Linnets Y.	13	1	9	3	53	77	5

### Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Cadwa	16	15	1	0	127	33	30
Rafters	17	12	2	3	117	53	27
Oakhill	16	13	3	0	111	49	26
Orrell	16	10	5	1	103	57	21
Bibbys	16	10	5	1	86	74	21
Linnets	15	6	8	1	67	83	13
Cadwa A	17	4	11	2	68	102	10
Bohemians	17	4	13	0	54	116	8
Bath St.	16	2	12	2	53	107	6
Waterloo Pk	16	0	16	0	24	136	0

### Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wav. Lab.	12	10	2	0	95	25	20
Bohs. A	13	10	3	0	88	42	20
Sefton	12	9	3	0	81	39	18
Huntley & P	11	8	3	0	76	34	16
Rafters A	11	4	7	0	46	64	8
L.P.A.S.	10	3	7	0	41	59	6
Orrell A	11	2	9	0	26	84	4
Tech. Studs	11	0	11	0	4	106	0

**Note:**—Will club secretaries please check their records and advise the Fixture Secretary of any discrepancies compared with the above tables.

## Time To Have A Snack

THE following letter has been received from the Warbreck Moor Club:—

Apart from the promotion and relegation battles which are being fought in the various divisions and regions, there is another grim struggle going on which, in the past, has had great publicity and now seems to have come to be regarded as a necessary evil which, if one cannot beat it one joins. I refer, of course, to the sandwich bat, which is now having its own private battle with Mr. Pimpled Rubber and seems to be enjoying a dubious popularity and victory.

The question to which we cannot gain a satisfactory answer from those who have changed to sandwich is: "Are you enjoying your game as much now as you did with pimpled rubber?" The answers which have been forthcoming usually point out that better results are being obtained, but all seem to agree, to a certain extent, that they do not get the same pleasure from their own particular sets, they did in the past, unless, of course, they are the type of individual who puts winning the set before the pleasure that should be derived from it.

As a spectacle the sandwich bat is a wash-out, rallies are rarely seen and mediocre players are revelling in this new power which can make them unbeatable by means of freakish shots which do not stem from natural talent.

We suggest if we cannot ban the new bat, let us change the name of the game and call it "Phut Pong", the game in which old men can find new life. As table tennis equipment sandwich bats should make good firelighters.

## An Intriguing Situation

**F**OLLOWING quickly on Arthur Taylor's debut for Lancashire, it is pleasing to record a highly successful one for Cheshire, by Liverpool Y.M.C.A.'s Ron Jones, writes Ken Jones. Winning his two singles and the mixed doubles, Ron played a big part in the 6-4 win over Durham.

Having built up an impressive record in league matches and inter-city matches, he also seems destined to land-league championship and Readman Cup honours, as well as providing a major threat to the holders of the closed titles. Our sincere congratulations then to the most dedicated player in the league.

Despite dropping two points in their last four matches—to Waterloo Park and Rafter's—Liverpool Y.M. are still five points ahead of Balfour and need only two more points to clinch the championship.

Waterloo Park are certainly putting up a great fight to remain in the division. They followed their first win of the season over Bohemians, by taking a meritorious point from the Y.M.C.A. and forced another draw, the seventh of the season, with Linnets. These points lifted them above Linnets and Anfield in the table, the first time they have left the bottom rung.

### OUT OF DANGER

Both Oakhill, and Bohemians appear to have steered clear of the relegation threat, and the issue now rests between Anfield, Linnets and Waterloo Park. The position is very intriguing as Anfield have still to play both their comrades in distress.

Individual performances since our last notes have provided little in the way of surprises. Ralph Gunnion, playing at No. 3 against Liverpool Y.M.C.A., lost to John Cain, and lost another set to Bill Harris of Oakhill.

Don Hobbs, a model of consistency, scored an excellent win over Ron Jones. This was Jones's only defeat in his last 30 events, and his club-mate, K. Poonsirivongse, suffered a double defeat against Bath Street's Taylor and Allanson, thereby reducing his average to 88 percent—still a very fine record.

And from fine records to a poor record. It is sad to report that the

names appearing on the Victoria Park score cards reads more like a list of displaced persons. With the departure of Lijinsky and the absence of their fickle Wirral contingent, the Park's first team appears to consist of Eddie Clein and any four other players who feel like a game, whether they be from the A, B or C teams. I understand from one of their officials, however, that they intend to put "their house in order" in quick time. Let us hope so.

★ ★ ★

**B**Y an odd coincidence two of the greatest surprises in the Second Division have involved Rafter's A but with rather different results so far as the Bentley Road team were concerned, writes our correspondent.

The first saw them beaten 7-3 by Oakhill A, who thus gained their first victory of the season, and the second saw Rafter's holding the division leaders, Litherland, to a draw.

Admittedly Rafter's were without Peter Short for the Oakhill match but even so it was a fine performance by the Oakhill side in a very tough match. Matt Hamill and Jackie Grant were mainly responsible for Oakhill's success for both of them won their two sets. Hamill beat Clint Casselman 16-21, 21-10, 21-16 and Dave Ridgway 22-20, 19-21, 21-17, and Grant triumphed over Casselman 21-17, 21-17 and Joe Lovelady 13-21, 21-17, 21-17.

Roberts, Platt and Davies each added a set to make the Oakhill total seven, while Rafter's trio came from Blackmore beating Roberts 16-21, 21-17, 21-14 and Davies 21-16, 21-12, and Lovelady defeating Platt 16-21, 21-16, 21-19.

### GAP NARROWED

It was Lovelady and Ridgway who gained Rafter's a point from the Litherland match. After losing the first game to five against Killip, Lovelady proceeded to take the next two 21-18, 21-12. He also beat Chew 13 and 16 to complete his double. Ridgway had a like success by beating Chew 18 and 17 and Norman Cooke 21-17, 20-22, 21-11. Peter Short got their fifth sets by beating K. Anderson 21-12, 21-15, while Litherland's five came from Clayton (2), Killip, Anderson and Cooke.

## THREE CORNERED BATTLE

The loss of that point has narrowed the gap between Litherland and Victoria Park A to two points, but the pair are so comfortably ahead of their nearest rivals that they have every justification for feeling sure of promotion.

Two victories over Litherland A and Cadwa in the past month have considerably brightened the hopes of Bohemians A avoiding relegation. They put the Bohs three points ahead of their rivals.

Bohs have obviously found a very useful player in Frank Rawlinson. Since he joined the team on his release from the Services he has been steadily regaining his old form and has now an average of 60-odd per cent. Many players in the league will remember him as the force behind the old Maghull club—so much so that the club folded up when he joined the army.

★ ★ ★

**W**HO is going to accompany Victoria Park B into the Second Division? That is the question which is the main topic of conversation among the leading teams of the Third Division, says Brian Leeson.

As I write, Beauclair, Bath Street A and R.A.F.A. are all in the hunt and it could all depend on the visit of R.A.F.A. to Beauclair on March 22. The Association are there with a chance following their defeat of Bath Street by seven sets to three. In that match B. Smith and Jim Robinson both won their two sets, while Quiggim, Butchert and Roberts added one each. Murray, Cyril Smith and Rupell got Bath Street's three.

At the other end of the table another three teams are concerned in the struggle to avoid relegation. English Electric did themselves a good turn by defeating Bootle Y.M.C.A. B 9-1, and if they can defeat Linnets A, whom they were due to meet on March 16, they should be safe.

### LOOK SAFE

The Bootle team, however, now look a safe bet for Division 4. They still have to play R.A.F.A. and Bath Street, two teams out for promotion, and I cannot imagine the Y.M. winning any points from either of those matches.

Linacre have staged a late recovery and now look reasonably secure. Wins over Linnets, R.A.F.A. and Fairlawn in the last few weeks—all of them by six sets to four—have given the Linacre side enough points to enable them to continue in Division 3 for another season. Their last match of the season, however, is against English Electric—a vital game for both teams.

Mike Trueman of Victoria Park still leads the averages in the division. He suffered his second league defeat of the season when he lost on the Park's table to E. Mooney, of Fairlawn, in a very close game. Another commendable victory for Mooney was his defeat of H. Reeve, at Linacre. Reeve has lost only five league sets this season and could possibly finish second in the table of averages.

Victoria Park B have once again got through to the final of the Rumjahn Cup and it looks on the cards that they will be able to go one better than last year when they lost to their own A team. They are due to meet Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B in the final, and although the latter are a Fourth Division side, albeit at the top of that division, I don't think the Park will consider the match an easy one.

As it was from what I have heard they must have considered themselves a trifle fortunate to have had a second bite at the semi-final cherry with Bath Street, although they made sure of having a good bite when given the opportunity. Let's wish them luck in the final.

★ ★ ★

**V**ICTORIA Park C must take pride of place in this month's notes on the Fourth Division, for being the first team to lower the colours of Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B, reports Bert Ariss. Their victory by six sets to four was gained with the help of D team player George Cope, who appeared at No. 1 in the Park team and defeated both Smith and Briscoe, the latter by the staggering margin of 21-15, 21-8. What a reserve. Any team would be glad of him.

The versatile Harold House side have been involved in two outstanding matches in the past month.

# Lussac Sure To Go Up

The first brought them success over the University by 6-4, which now makes them favourites to occupy the position of runners-up to the Y.M.

For that victory they had to thank Lou Schamis, who defeated former clubmate Snyder 21-5, 22-20 and Lewis Rosenbloom 17-21, 21-14, 21-13, and Ivor Chazen, who beat Prosser 21-19, 21-23, 21-13 and Rodway 17-21, 21-16, 21-7.

The second game, which they also won by six sets to four, was against Victoria Park C, Shamis beating Cope 21-15, 20-22, 23-21 and Chazen scoring another good double victory.

## WORTHY STAND-IN

It has been unfortunate for the Police that their No. 1, D. Gould, has not been available for the best part of the season. Penholder Reg Hough has taken over that onerous spot and proved very difficult to beat. He had straight wins over G. Vick and T. Johnstone in the good victory of 7-3 over Victoria Park C.

Cadwa A have re-introduced young Bob Eden into their ranks, but they seem to have left the move too late to gain them promotion this season.

At the bottom of the table Linnets B keep pegging away without much success. Pete Meyer has been obtaining their best results but it would be idle to pretend that their present side are Fourth Division standard.

Congratulations to Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B in reaching the final of the Rumfahn Cup. They will be up against a pretty tough proposition when they meet Victoria Park B, leaders of the Third Division, in the final, and their recent defeat by the Park C team will have done nothing to raise their hopes. Nevertheless, I still think that the Y.M. will go into the match fully determined to make the Park go all out to win. Good luck to them.

Please give your full support to the league's Closed tournament. This is your competition and only with your support will it be able to continue.

★ ★ ★

**W**ITH a four points lead over their nearest rivals and only

three matches left to play, it looks as though Lussac have won the race for promotion from the Fifth Division, writes John Cawley. Still holding on to their undefeated record and playing well, I believe they will do well in the Fourth Division next season.

Challenging for second place to Lussac and a move to higher spheres with them, are Victoria Park D and Waterloo Dock A and the return fixture between them, due to have been played on the Park's table two or three days after I have penned these notes, will probably settle the issue.

The Park team would undoubtedly enter the match all out to avenge the 6-4 defeat inflicted on them in the first half of the season and I have a confident feeling that I shall not be sticking my neck out too far if I say that I think they will be too strong for the Railwaymen and so gain promotion with Lussac.

## YOUNG TEAM

Down at the bottom of the table Bath Street B are certain to be relegated, and with them in the danger zone are Cadwa B, Police A and Bootle Y.M.C.A. C. The last named are a very young side and include Rowlands and James, but with more experience they could, in time, become a very good team. Time is thus on their side, although it is very probable that a distinct improvement by any of the youngsters will see them promoted to one of their club's higher teams.

The winners of the Cadwa B and Police A match, due to be played on March 18 at Cadwa, are almost sure to avoid relegation and stay in the division for yet another season.

My own club, Florence Oxton, are having a hard time in trying to turn out a team and this has been reflected in some of our results.

Anfield B are having a good season, with Derbyshire, Stirling and Bunner playing well. Also playing well are Oakhill B. Victoria Park D just beat them 6-4, with Glover winning his two sets for Oakhill, and Cope and Jones getting their doubles for the Park.

# SWEEPING ON TO PROMOTION

**T**HE main item of interest in the Sixth Division concerns the fight for second place, declares Brian Leeson. Wavertree Labour, of course, are certain winners, but there are four teams still in the running for the jump into the Fifth Division.

Fairlawn A lost valuable ground recently when losing at Wavertree Baptists and at Liverpool Post Office and then at home to Rafter's C. As the Fairlawn side still have to play Wavertree Labour and Telecomms, as I write these notes, they have a tough assignment ahead of them and must be considered the outsiders in the promotion race.

Telecomms have a better chance following their drawn match with Wavertree Labour, although afterwards suffering a 6-4 defeat at the hands of Wavertree Baptists. In that game M. Travis and Kewley were mainly responsible for their defeat, each of them winning twice for the Baptists, but the other sets were very close affairs.

## P.O. FAVOURITES

The Baptists have some easier matches with which to finish the season, for instance Huntley and Palmer and Bootle Nalگو, but their final match against the improved Rafter's C will be no walk-over. At the back of their minds will be the knowledge that in their earlier meeting on the Baptists' own table, Rafter's beat them 6-4.

Of the four contenders for the runners-up position I should rate Liverpool Post Office as having the best chance, but the top positions are so close that the final placings might well be decided on sets average.

At the other end of the division Domestic Mission and Bootle Nalگو are doomed to relegation. They are due to meet in the final match of the season which should decide who will have the doubtful honour of occupying the bottom position.

P. Hurworth of Wavertree Labour remains unbeaten after 16 matches. His nearest rivals now include his clubmates F. Farquharson (five defeats) and N. Chaloner (six defeats), with W. Shiel, of Liverpool Post

Office, on a like mark, and C. L. Jones, of Telecomms next in the list with seven losses.

★ ★ ★

**M**ATCHES in the North Region during the past month have resulted very much as could be expected, with Waterloo Park B firmly consolidating themselves at the head of the table, writes our correspondent.

Although still with a game in hand as these notes are written, the R.O.F. can now have little hope of overtaking their rivals for the games Waterloo still have to play should not cause them a great deal of anxiety. Indeed, it will be surprising if they do not collect the full quota of points from them.

Even though they were not at full strength for a couple of their matches—against Bath Street C, for instance, they were without both Rumph and Coveney—Park B have been scoring sweeping victories and very few of their sets have required three games to decide them. There can be no doubt that Park are in a fortunate position when they have so many useful players to call upon in an emergency.

## SNATCHED DRAW

Bootle Y.M.C.A. D were able to snatch a point from Lewis's when the latter had to play two reserves in the places of K. McNaghten and C. Avery. In three of their five winning sets the Bootle players needed three games. Greener had a tough fight with Harrison before winning 21-16 in the third; even tougher was Hurst's win over McKittrick; 22-20 in the third; and Park had a close call against Lewis's reserve Dukes, eventually winning 18-21, 22-20, 21-15.

By contrast the Lewis's victories were much easier, especially A. McNaghten's two over Greener and Hurst, and Harrison's defeat of Atkins—all in straight games.

Incidentally, the Y.M. seem to have a useful youngster named Birch to call upon when they need a player to fill a vacancy in the North Region side. They included him in the match against Moss Side and his two victories over Winder

## Rafters D Climb Up

(21-19, 21-17) and Tanner (21-19, 21-18) played a big part in their 6-4 win. Lewis also got a pair by defeating Lawton 21-12, 22-20, and Kelsall 21-15, 17-21, 21-18.

Thanks chiefly to Reynolds and Stock, Warbreck A scored the narrowest victories over Belling and Lee. But there was nothing narrow about the four sets the two players won. Reynolds beat Cantwell 21-11, 21-17 and Gordon 21-13, 21-10, and Stock defeated Gordon 21-6, 21-12 and A. Berry 21-7, 21-10.

It was an unlucky night for Millin for he lost to both Cantwell (12 and 13) and Harper (17 and 15 after taking the first game 22-20). Millin has not been having much success of late, for he also lost to Patterson and Lawton in the match against Moss Side when Warbreck won 7-3.

The region's interest in the Hyde Cup vanished with the 8-2 defeat of the R.O.F. by Liverpool Y.M.C.A. C. Only Wilkinson and Shiers could claim a set, the former beating R. Jones 14-21, 21-8, 21-16, and the latter defeating J. Donnelly 15-21, 21-15, 21-18.

★ ★ ★

**W**ITH the end of the season in sight it seems that nothing but a miracle can stop the Liverpool Cricket Club finishing as unbeaten winners of the South Region, says Jim Green. Their five-all draw with the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. C team gave them a two-point lead and a slightly better sets average, so unless there is a real shock in the last three weeks, the Cricket Club are South Region champions. It has not been easy though, and they can say they have earned their victory.

The two teams which drew 5-5 in the league battle now have to meet in the Hyde Cup final and it will be a brave man who forecasts this one—even though Y.M. only got one of the four League points. Incidentally, B. Cullen, of the Y.M.C.A. team, has played 40 sets (including cup ties) and has won the lot, being the only 100 per cent player in the region.

Both teams are nearly all "old hands" though. Ray Tyler played

for Lucem not so long ago; Barbara Topping for Aigburth Methodists, Ogdens and Linnets; and Les Lewis and his wife were at Anfield for many seasons. And the Y.M.C.A. team seems almost the same as the late Everton Y.M.C.A. team from the Third Division. Indeed, it is not so long ago that the *Digest* commented that a certain laddie named Donnelly had never missed a match in many seasons.

It is no surprise therefore that these two teams stand out in the Regions. Indeed, both could more than hold their own a couple of divisions higher. However, it will be good to know that the Hyde Cup is booked once more for the South Region.

Of the other teams, Fairlawn B and Beauclair A have kept the leaders fully on their toes, and here again the Beauclair team have all been playing for about ten years, so it looks as if experience helps.

Anyway, Ron McEvoy at Waver-tree Labour can console his B team with the thought that they are all pretty short on experience, and next year will give them a better chance, having this year's experience behind them.

★ ★ ★

**D**URING the past month Rafters D have been putting up quite a creditable performance in the East Region, reports Ron McEvoy. Although losing to St. Edward's and Crawfords, victories against English Electric and Birds Eye and drawn matches with Anfield C and Nalگو A, have helped to improve their lowly position in the league table.

Holding Anfield C to a draw was one of their most impressive performances and thanks for it were due mainly to a double scored by R. Craddock. Being a predominantly young side, the improvement in Rafters D was almost inevitable and one feels that next season we can expect some surprises from them.

### IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS

An improvement is also very obvious at English Electric, where positional changes have been going on for some time. J. Byrne, who

## NOTE THESE NAMES

has slowly worked his way from No. 1 to No. 5, is now playing with confidence, as is J. Jones, whose movement has been in the opposite direction and now occupies the No. 1 berth.

Oakhill C are now almost certain to keep Birds Eye company at the foot of the table. In A. Todd, Oakhill have a No. 1 who is holding his own with the best in the region, but, sad to relate, support for him is lacking in every other position.

Although the championship of the region is now virtually in the pocket of St. Edward's Old Boys, an interesting fight has developed for second place between Crawfords and Wavertree Labour A. As I write these notes both teams have yet to meet St. Edward's and much might well depend on the outcome of one or both these matches. One thing is quite certain, however—neither team will catch St. Edward's now.

★ ★ ★

I HAVE heard comments that there has been no interest in the Central Region this season, says Jim Green. I simply cannot agree. Admittedly, it could have been better with more teams to play, but in our small sphere, I am convinced, we have players whose names will be very well known in the next few seasons.

Youth has had a season on its own, and we hope that next year a few more clubs will enter youth teams so that a full youth division can operate. This has only been the thin end of the wedge.

The best prospect of the season is undoubtedly Judy Crafter, of

Cadwa Y. Watching her in action took me back a good many years to when Ivv Pollitt (Crafter to you) was in the early stages of her career, and when Judy learns to watch the ball more closely on her attacking shots, she is going to take a lot of stopping. Her results against boys have been magnificent, and there is no doubt that she is the season's best prospect.

Myers (Cadwa), Birch, Hellewell and Ferris (Bootle) and Green, Stringfellow and Gaul (Linnets) can all improve with plenty of practice during the close season, and among these I feel sure we have names of which you will hear much more.

I noticed in one match that footwork is painfully slow, and some seem to think that a "sway from the waist" is enough to save the energy of moving the feet—but footwork is all important.

And we have one or two who seem to think that a sandwich bat covers a multitude of sins. Sandwich can be a deadly weapon with the right shots and movements, but it is no magic wand to win without effort.

St. Edward's have done a lot of damage lately, collecting five points from a possible six, and I feel sure that they would have been one of the teams to benefit from a bigger division. Maybe next season they will have a better chance to do their stuff. That they have the players is indisputable.

University, having had to rearrange a few matches because of vacations, could well shine and lift themselves by the last match.

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## Cadwa Set for Double

**BY** the time this issue of the *Digest* is out the season will almost be over. There will be only the cup finals and Closed tournament and about two matches to be played. Has it been a good or bad season?

From a playing point of view I should say it has been good. All the matches have been played; the weather has been reasonably kind to us, with only a little fog and hardly any snow to interfere with them.

Cadwa are all set for winning the league and cup double this season, for the first time. They have had a very successful season, due in no small measure to Ivy Crafter, their captain, who has always been there to inspire them and who still plays a very good game and is quite difficult to beat.

### KNOCKING ON DOOR

I have no doubt that Judy, her daughter, will soon be knocking on the door of Cadwa's senior teams. At the moment she is playing in their junior side—and playing extremely well—so that when she does make the senior side she will be quite used to match play and will be a good asset to them.

Oakhill have also had a good season and are now lying joint second with Rafter's to Cadwa. They also reached the semi-final of the Bartholomew Cup only to be beaten by the former. It was a good match even if Oakhill lost 8-2. Edna Moore, Oakhill's captain, played extremely well to beat Betty Black in straight games. Edna really does give the game all she's got. Though she had quite a long lay-off a couple of seasons ago, she seems to be playing as well as ever, if not better.

Mabel Francis is another player with the right temperament. She never gives up and never shows any emotion, win or lose. In a couple of years she will be a player to be reckoned with.

Rafter's played Bibbys in the other semi-final. Again the score was 8-2, in Rafter's favour. Jean Reynolds played a tip-top game against Reg Royle, completely demoralising her. Jean attacked brilliantly and her defence against some of Reggie's attack was equally as good. Some of her returns left her opponent bewildered.

On paper Cadwa should win the cup, but then cup finals always appear to have an upsetting effect on players so that it is difficult to forecast what will happen. In addition, Rafter's have the heartening thought that they have beaten Cadwa once this season and can hope that what they have done once they can do again. But whoever wins the final it should be a good match and well worth watching.

Waterloo Park are in a sorry plight. Nothing can save them from relegation. They seem to be in that unfortunate position of being too good for the second division but not quite good enough for the first.

Bath Street, too, are in the doldrums. To date they have gained only five points from 14 matches, with Bohemians just above them with six points from 16 matches.

Jean Reynolds has had a very successful season and must be in the top three of the averages. She had a very close game with Moya Jones when Moya turned out for Bohs, only losing 20-22 in the third. Jean must have been on top form as Moya has this season been playing better than ever.

Pauline Lawrenson must also be among the leading averages. She has been consistent all season and her change over to the sandwich bat has benefited her.

### RARE POSSIBILITY

Wavertree Labour still maintain their lead in the second division, followed closely by Bohemians A. It will be rather strange if Bohs A go up and their first team go down. This could happen. I don't think any club has been in that position before, so it could set the Bohemians club quite a problem next season.

Sefton General and Huntley and Palmer are neck and neck. In fact, the top four places are closely contested.

Technical Students are in the same position as Waterloo Park—pointless. But I hope they won't be too discouraged.

The Closed tournament will, I hope, be supported by all the women players. It's good fun and the playing conditions and catering facilities excellent. It will be a grand finale to another happy table tennis season.