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No. 5

DANGER IN SUCCESS

SO another season has come to an end—a season which has been full of incident and packed with interest right up until its last moment, and almost beyond.

Few members of the league could have anticipated that the change in the rules governing cup finals would have had such an immediate and tremendous effect and what has happened may lead many to speculate on whether it is an indication of the shape of things to come.

It is indeed, difficult to recall a season when all four cup finals ended with the sets equally divided between the contestants, as has been the case this year. But if the new rules have done nothing else they have enabled all the teams concerned in the cup finals to feel that they had every chance of winning a trophy.

★ ★ ★

ANOTHER outstanding feature of the season has undoubtedly been the advance of Liverpool Y.M.C.A., who must surely have set up a record which will be difficult to better. But therein lies a danger—a danger for the Y.M.C.A. themselves in particular and for the league in general. It is an old and well known saying that success breeds success, but it also has a remarkable drawing power, as we have seen in the past. It would not be surprising therefore if we were to hear of some prominent players turning their eyes in the direction of Mount Pleasant.

It has often been noted in this column—and it is worth repeating—that the concentration of playing ability in any one club is not good for competitive table tennis and for that reason alone we would regret any player of note transferring his affections from his present club to the Y.M.C.A. We have little doubt that the officials of the Y.M.C.A. will hold the same view, for they must also be well aware that unless the other teams in the league are of a fair and useful standard, the opposition they will meet in league matches will be such that there will be little or no satisfaction to be had from victory.

It is the essence of all competitive sport that the winning of anything must be worthwhile; that there must always be a danger of defeat. Let us hope that we will see a continuation of that in the seasons that lie ahead, as has been the case in the seasons that have gone before. It is only in such a way that our game is worth playing.

★ ★ ★

FINALLY may we make the strongest possible appeal to all clubs not to send their representatives to the Annual General Meeting without some form of mandate. As will be found in the notes written by the General Secretary on another page, two radical changes are being put forward to that meeting in order to obtain views regarding them. It is hardly fair for club members to expect their representatives to bear the full burden of responsibility in regard to either of these matters, especially the representatives of any club which will be particularly concerned.

It has been with deliberate intent that the General Secretary has given advance publicity to these two suggestions—so that the clubs can consider them and decide on their attitude towards them.

Good-bye Dingle Vale?

WHILE it was a pleasure to read the praise from Mr. Glyn Jones in last month's *Digest*, we would be foolish to pretend that the arrangements for our Closed Championships are perfect, writes Ray Hebson. In particular, a number of usually keen supporters of the Closed have expressed regret that this year it is being held so late in April that the Saturday evening finals will clash with cricket and lawn tennis.

So long as we use a school hall we are limited to school holidays, and this year's Closed has been affected by the late Easter.

It is true that we could have tried to run the tournament in the Christmas holidays, but this would have been a gamble, as it would then have had to compete with seasonal festivities, and moreover would have followed too closely upon the Merseyside Open, which is held in November by arrangement with the E.T.T.A.

Can any reader suggest an alternative venue for the Closed in future? There are, of course, several essentials. It should be fairly central and have a suitable floor. We would need space to put in at least five tables, with room for run-back and spectators.

Other points to be watched for are facilities for installing our lighting and amplifier; toilets and changing rooms; and (very important to those coming direct from work) arrangements for serving hot and cold refreshments.

With five tables we would need four evenings (or three and Saturday afternoon), excluding finals. As to cost, we pay £24 for Dingle Vale and would not wish to spend more.

If you know a likely place, please tell the Secretary or Referee. Any reasonable suggestion will be welcome and will be carefully considered.

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From the Secretary's Desk

TWO IDEAS TO THINK ABOUT

By JOHN McKIM

YOUR committee has, during the past few months, been seriously discussing ideas about the formation of the various divisions next season, and the position of the women's divisions. We have two ideas which we would like you to think about before the Annual General Meeting, which, incidentally, is to be held on Monday, May 30.

First of all let me make it clear that these proposals are not in the form of rule alterations, hence this advance information.

Under the League Rules the Committee are empowered to form divisions, regions, etc., as they think necessary, but it is our idea to test the feeling of the meeting about our ideas before making any firm decision.

The standard of play in the women's divisions, and the standard of women's play in general has deteriorated so much that we feel something must be done to arrest the decline. It is not, in our opinion, possible to formulate rules to make all women players compete in the women's divisions, one main reason being that there are many clubs who have only two or three women players, not enough to enter a team. If all women were barred from the main divisions these players would have to change clubs or stop playing.

The alternative which we are proposing is to have all women playing in the main divisions. The actual wording of our proposal is "that for one season 1960-1961 no women's divisions shall be formed in the League".

In this way all women players will, we feel, be meeting stiffer opposition, and we shall not have the present position of a handful of women's teams playing perhaps only 16 matches a season, instead of 22, as has been the case for the last two seasons.

Our second proposition is somewhat similar but perhaps slightly less controversial. It is "that next season no regions shall be formed but that additional divisions, numbered 7, 8, 9, etc. as required, be formed".

The regions, we feel, have served their purpose, and with so many teams having two or perhaps three teams in the regions, the position, as was pointed out in last month's *Digest* has become absurd.

The idea of giving this advance notice is so that you can think these ideas over and give your representative at the A.G.M. a firm opinion to express.

And a final word to club secretaries. Don't forget that your papers with your nominations for the various official positions and all proposed alterations to rules must be in my hands by May 1.

Cadwa Win Cup Again

By Eileen Mansell

AFTER a great struggle Cadwa managed to regain the Bartholomew Cup which they won two years ago. Rafterers put up a brave fight and when the match was played at Balfour they forced a draw.

It was a curious fact that the very first set of the 20 played in the final and replay should prove the most exciting of all. It was between Pauline Lawrenson and Jean Reynolds and after both players had shaken off their initial nervousness, we were treated to some fine table tennis.

Pauline took the first game rather easily at 21-10 because she was the quicker to settle down, but with Jean's attack becoming more consistent she levelled matters by taking the second 21-16. Then followed a really exciting match, with the lead continually changing hands until at 15-all Pauline appeared to falter and Jean went on to win 21-17 to give Rafterers the lead.

It was hardly to be expected that such a standard could be maintained throughout the match. Nevertheless the Balfour match was productive of some really good play and we saw Elizabeth Loughrey put her team two up by using the quick hit she has developed to beat Betty Black.

Doris Tynan and Ivy Crafter put up a ding-dong game until the tiny Rafterers player, after losing the first game 18-21, found holes in her opponent's defence by continually switching play and took the next two games.

Gloria Burns drew first blood for Cadwa by beating Rosemary McMullen, who seemed to be finding the occasion a little too much for her, and Cadwa got on level terms by winning the two doubles after Jean and Doris had missed the chance of putting Rafterers 4-1 up.

Jean, however, restored the lead to Rafterers with a good 21-9 win in the third over Gloria but again the scores were levelled when Pauline beat Elizabeth, who was still playing well. 21-14 in the third. With Doris beating Betty in straight games, it

was left to Ivy, who had saved herself to the last, to earn her team a replay and this she did with a comfortable win over Rosemary.

What a different story it was in the replay at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. where Cadwa switched Pauline to No. 4. Instead of finding themselves consistently in the lead, Rafterers were always struggling to get on terms. Two of the big factors were that whereas Jean could not reproduce her form of the first match Betty excelled herself. She controlled her keenness to win points quickly and waited for the right moment to use her backhand.

With a 25-23 20-22 21-15 win over Jean she got Cadwa off to a good start and although Elizabeth put Rafterers level with a good win over Ivy, Pauline restored Cadwa's lead with a fairly comfortable win over Doris.

With Pauline and Gloria winning their doubles against Rosemary and Doris, Cadwa went into a 3-1 lead which Ivy promptly increased to 4-1 by again beating Rosemary in straight games.

It appeared as if Cadwa were going to run away with the match when Gloria took the first game 21-15 from Jean, but the Rafterers player fought back well to take the next two 21-19 21-14.

Could Rafterers make the comeback? That was the question everyone was asking when Elizabeth went on against Betty and quickly took the first game 21-12. But Betty had different ideas and after snatching the second game 23-21 she went on to take the third 21-18 and put Cadwa in a winning position.

Doris kept Rafterers in the match with a two-straight win over Gloria but the next set decided the issue with Pauline defeating Rosemary after a struggling first game in which Rosemary kept her from using her favourite attacking style.

It had been a tremendous fight between the two close rivals. All ten players had fought well in both matches which were played in the best possible spirit.

A HAPPY CONCLUSION

THE game between our women's A team and Wirral, which I reported last month as having been won by virtue of the non-arrival of the Wirral team on the due date, has, in fact, since been played, resulting in a satisfactory 6-4 win by our girls, leaving no doubts at all as to the best team in the Second Division of the league. Congratulations then to Mrs. Crafter and her team for being our only team to sport a 100 per cent record.

An unexpected win by the women's first team at Blackpool, also by 6 sets to 4, put them in a better position in the table than for some seasons past. I must now take back my words of earlier on in the season when I suggested that we were unable to field a team capable of defeating, among others, Blackpool!

Once again it was Mrs. Moya Jones who played the leading part by winning all her three events. She had been in great form this season, and in an effort to have her achievements recognised, the Liverpool League has now made a concrete effort to see that she is considered in the future Lancashire county teams.

The men's first team concluded their programme with a convincing 9-1 victory over Wirral and will probably take third place in the First Division.

I am now in a position to give final details of the results of the respective teams, and for those interested, here they are:—

Men's First: P. 6, W. 4, L. 2, For 37, Agst 23.

Men's A: P. 7, W. 6, D. 1, For 52, Agst 18.

Women's First: P. 4, W. 2, L. 2, For 17, Agst 23.

Women's A: P. 6, W. 6, For 40, Agst 20.

Juniors First: P. 4, W. 2, D. 1, L. 1, For 23, Agst 17.

Juniors A: P. 4, W. 1, L. 2, D. 1, For 15, Agst 25.

In conclusion a word of thanks in one or two directions.

To the players who were selected to represent the various city teams for their co-operation and manner in which they have at all times upheld the good name of this league.

It would have been impossible to play any of our home matches without the help of the clubs who have been good enough to lend their premises. The help which I have received throughout the season from officials of these clubs has been wonderful, and I am most grateful to them, and their clubs, namely Anfield, Balfour, Bath Street, Beauclair, Bibby's, Bohemians, Bootle Y.M.C.A., Huntley and Palmers, Police, Liverpool Y.M.C.A., Oakhill, Rafter's, Victoria Park and Wavertree Labour.

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A HARD EARNED VICTORY

CONGRATULATIONS to Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B on winning the Rumjahn Cup, and hard luck to Victoria Park B on failing, so narrowly, to improve on their achievement of last season when they also reached the final only to lose to their own A team.

There was nothing about the two matches which had to be played before the cup went its way to Mount Pleasant, which suggested that one of the contestants was a third division team and the other a fourth division one, albeit the most successful in that division. Indeed, I have rarely seen two teams more evenly matched and it is not surprising therefore that the two games advantage which the Y.M.C.A. managed to secure in the first match ultimately decided the destination of the cup.

In general the play in both matches fluctuated tremendously. On the one hand there was some great attacking and defensive play that was worthy of players from loftier spheres and on the other there was equally some very dull ping pong which was hardly worthy of a regional player.

Both matches were studded with incident but the one thing that will always remain in my memory was the first game between Des Loughrey and Mike Truman. In my view it counted almost as much for the Y.M.C.A. eventually winning the cup as did the four sets which was Gerry Cooklin's total for the two matches.

It was quickly obvious that Loughrey rated as small his hope of beating Truman—although their meeting in the replay all but gave the lie to that idea—for from the start he showed that he was determined to at least take a game out of his opponent. Time and again he tempted Truman with high bouncing balls and time and again Truman fell into the trap of mis-hitting them either into the net or off the table.

It was interesting to speculate what might have happened had Loughrey, having achieved his object by canny play, changed his tactics once Truman had played

himself in. Instead he continued in the same vein and Truman took the next two in comfortable style—much more easily than the two he won in their second meeting.

Of the 20 sets played in both matches the one that stood out as the most thrilling was that in the first match between Truman and George Smith, and the Victoria Park player could rate himself fortunate that at a vital moment in the third game, with the set literally in his pocket, Smith's attack lost the accuracy which was its feature in both matches. It enabled Truman to come from behind, snatch invaluable points that enabled him to level at 20-all and eventually take the set at 23-21 in the third.

At all other times Smith hit, not once but three and four times in succession, with great force and accuracy, and to such a purpose in the replay that he swept Cameron and Park right off the table.

Probably the biggest surprise of the two matches was the victory gained by Cooklin over Ken Park in a set which saw the big Y.M. player produce some brilliant counter hits which had Park floundering in a helpless position. It was one of the sets which Victoria Park must have counted on winning, especially as they had dropped Ken from the No. 1 position he occupied in the first game to No. 3 in the second.

Cooklin was, indeed, the man of the match, so much so that it seemed odd to see him so subdued in his second clash with Brian Capper, whom he had so comfortably beaten in the first game. The spin which the Victoria Park captain got on the ball, and the slowing down of the game, had Cooklin not a little at sea, and he had to do a great deal of concentrating to eventually win the set.

To Cookson, too, must go the credit for the Y.M. getting their replay after trailing throughout the first match and being at one time 1-3 down. Playing the last set of the evening with the Y.M. 4-5 behind, Cooklin literally hit Cameron off the table for a 21-4 21-14 victory.

Continued on Page 9

Final League Tables

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool YM	22	17	0	5	153	67	39
Balfour	22	16	5	1	148	72	33
Rafters	22	13	5	4	133	87	30
L'pool YM A	22	12	4	6	124	96	30
Bath Street	22	11	7	4	117	103	26
Bootle YM	22	11	9	2	129	91	24
Victoria Pk	22	8	11	3	97	123	19
Bohemians	22	5	12	5	93	127	15
Oakhill	22	5	13	4	84	136	14
Linnets	22	4	13	5	95	125	13
Anfield	22	6	16	0	78	142	12
Waterloo Pk	22	1	14	7	69	151	9

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Litherland	22	20	0	2	155	65	42
Vic. Pk. A	22	19	1	2	169	51	40
W'loo Dock	22	14	6	2	135	85	30
Balfour A	22	13	5	4	130	90	30
Anfield A	22	9	10	3	113	107	21
Bootle YM A	22	9	10	3	113	107	21
Rafters A	22	7	12	3	103	117	17
Lucern	22	7	12	3	90	130	17
Cadwa	22	8	13	1	89	131	17
Bohs A	22	8	14	0	87	133	16
Litherland A	22	4	17	1	76	144	9
Oakhill A	22	2	20	0	60	160	4

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Vic. Park B	22	19	1	2	162	58	40
Beauchair	22	13	4	5	132	88	31
Bath St. A	22	14	6	2	130	90	30
R.A.F.A.	22	11	6	5	121	99	27
Rafters B	22	10	8	4	116	104	24
Balfour B	22	9	7	6	112	108	24
Linacre	22	9	10	3	105	115	21
W'loo Park A	22	8	9	5	99	121	21
Fairlawn	22	7	11	4	107	113	18
Linnets A	22	4	14	4	88	132	12
English Elec	22	4	17	1	81	139	9
Bootle YM B	22	3	18	1	67	153	7

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool YM B	22	19	1	2	176	44	40
Harold Hse	22	17	4	1	134	86	35
University	22	16	4	2	139	81	34
Victoria Pk C	22	10	7	5	115	105	25
L.P.A.S.	22	11	9	2	117	103	24
Cadwa A	22	8	7	7	114	106	23
Balfour C	22	11	11	0	106	114	22
War. Moor	22	9	10	3	105	115	21
Sefton	22	6	10	6	99	121	18
Litherland B	22	5	16	1	83	137	11
Bohs B	22	3	16	3	80	140	9
Linnets B	22	0	20	2	52	168	2

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Lussac	18	15	0	3	131	49	33
W'loo Dk A	18	11	2	5	113	67	27
Anfield B	18	12	4	2	114	66	26
Vic. Park B	18	10	4	4	106	74	24
Oakhill B	18	9	8	1	94	86	19
Flo Oxtton	18	7	7	4	90	90	18
L.P.A.S. A	18	5	11	2	73	107	12
Cadwa B	18	3	12	3	68	112	9
Bootle YM C	18	3	12	3	66	114	9
Bath St. B	18	1	16	1	45	135	3

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wav. Lab.	22	20	1	1	181	39	41
L'pool P.O.	22	18	4	0	150	70	36
Wav. Bapt.	22	18	4	0	148	72	36
Fairlawn A	22	15	7	0	132	88	30
Telecomms	22	13	6	3	122	98	29
Rafters C	22	9	8	5	106	114	23
Nalgo	22	8	11	3	108	112	19
Co-op	22	6	11	5	98	122	17
Huntley & P	22	5	15	2	83	137	12
Bohs. C	22	4	15	3	78	142	11
Bootle Nalgo	22	3	18	1	66	154	7
Dom. Miss.	22	1	20	1	48	172	3

North Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
W'loo Pk B	22	21	1	0	189	31	42
R.O.F.	22	20	1	1	170	50	41
War. Moor A	22	16	5	1	146	74	33
Bath St. C	22	13	6	3	133	87	29
W'loo Pk C	22	13	8	1	123	97	27
Lewis's	22	9	8	5	125	95	23
Belling	22	9	10	3	106	114	21
Bootle YM D	22	8	10	4	104	116	20
Moss Side	22	5	15	2	82	138	12
Lewis's A	22	3	17	2	58	162	8
Anfield D	22	2	17	3	51	169	7
Hansons	22	0	21	1	33	187	1

South Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool C.C.	22	20	0	2	177	43	42
L'pool YM C	22	20	1	1	181	39	41
Fairlawn B	22	15	4	3	152	68	33
Beauchair A	22	12	7	3	130	90	27
Stanley Hse	22	11	7	4	119	101	26
Crawfords B	22	7	12	3	88	132	17
Crawfords A	22	7	14	1	94	126	15
L'pool C.C. A	22	5	12	5	82	138	15
Wav. Lab. B	22	5	14	3	85	135	13
Eng. Elec. B	22	5	14	3	79	141	13
Oakhill D	22	4	13	5	78	142	13
Tech. Studs	22	4	17	1	59	161	9

LEAGUE TABLES

East Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
St. Ed. O.B.	22	20	0	2	177	43	42
Wav. Lab. A	22	18	3	1	160	60	37
Crawfords	22	17	4	1	153	67	35
L.P.A.S. B.	22	12	7	3	129	91	27
Anfield C.	22	9	9	4	119	101	22
Beauchair B.	22	9	10	3	95	125	21
Nalgo A.	22	9	11	2	102	118	20
Rafters D.	22	7	10	5	91	129	19
Eng. Elec. A	22	7	13	2	94	126	16
Fairlawn C.	22	6	14	2	83	137	14
Oakhill C.	22	2	18	2	64	156	6
Birds Eye	22	2	19	1	53	167	5

Central Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
University A.	16	10	3	3	96	62	23
Cadwa Y.	16	9	2	5	92	68	23
St. Ed. A.	16	6	6	4	82	78	16
Bootle YM Y	16	4	9	3	65	95	11
Linnets Y.	16	1	10	5	63	97	7

Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Cadwa	18	16	1	1	140	40	33
Oakhill	18	15	3	0	125	55	30
Rafters	18	12	2	4	122	58	28
Orrell	18	11	5	2	117	63	24
Bibbys	18	10	7	1	90	90	21
Linnets	18	8	8	2	86	94	18
Cadwa A.	18	4	12	2	71	109	10
Bath Street	18	3	13	2	64	116	8
Bohemians	18	4	14	0	56	124	8
Waterloo Pk.	18	0	18	0	29	151	0

Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wav. Lab.	14	11	2	1	110	30	23
Sefton	14	11	3	0	97	43	22
Bohs A.	14	11	3	0	96	44	22
Huntley & P	14	9	5	0	91	49	18
L.P.A.S.	14	6	8	0	70	70	12
Rafters A.	14	5	8	1	61	79	11
Orrell A.	14	2	12	0	28	112	4
Tech. Studs	14	0	14	0	7	133	0

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A Reply in Ryhme

THE rules allow a bat of wood
With rubber, sponge and pimple.
At Warbreck Moor they hate this
bat,

And so the answer's simple.

They do not like the sandwich bat.
They throw them on the floor.
And so you buy a sandwich bat
To win at Warbreck Moor.

At football I can't play as well
As famous Jimmy Harris,
But if I get a sandwich bat
I'll pulverise Bert Arris.

This year I'll buy a sandwich bat
For my six-year-old daughter.
Then off to Warbreck Moor we'll go
For her to do some slaughter.

When Linacre play at the Moor
Their bats with "phut-pong"
sound.

The air is thick with frenzied
shouts

"Now lads stop fooling 'round".

The sandwich bat is here to stay,
So Warbreck stop your bleating.
The users of this new device
Are certainly not cheating.

My phrasing may not be expert.

I do my best to coin 'em.

So now I give the rallying cry—

"If you can't beat 'em, join 'em".

Anonymous

P.S.—I play with a pimple bat.

Continued from Page 6

One of the odd things about the two matches was the great difference in atmosphere. The first was marked with a do-or-die tenseness, with every player keyed up to the fullest extent. It was probably impossible for them to reproduce such tension in the replay and the result was that the latter proved to be something of an anti-climax.

That, however, is not to say that anything was given away—at least not deliberately—but it did have an effect on the play for, in the main, that of the second match never reached the high standard which had been seen in the first one.

The Readman Cup Puzzle

By Jack Pattison

DID Norman Jones and Dave Butterworth play their set to a pre-arranged plan when they met in the replay of the Readman Cup final at Bootle Y.M.C.A.?

That was the question which many of the spectators asked and there is no doubt that there is considerable justification for it. Certainly the set was a real hum-dinger, marathon-like in length and productive of great attack and equally great defence by Butterworth in the first game and by Jones in the second, and finally a real mixture in the decider.

But it is not in my province to speculate, simply to report on what happened, and in doing so I must state that Jones hit away the last chance Balfour had of retaining the cup. The Y.M. led 5-2 when the pair went on and Balfour needed to win the last three sets in straight games for the teams to finish level on sets and games.

Jones had won the first 33-31 and held a useful lead when in the teens in the next. Time and again he forced Butterworth nine or ten feet away from the table on the forehand corner, compelling the Y.M. player to make desperate albeit brilliant retrieving shots. A drop shot or a quick switch of direction must have won him several points but the result were wild shots which either went off the table or into the net.

At least four points were decided that way and they enabled Butterworth to get on terms at 18-all and finally take the game 21-19. What happened in the decider mattered little for by Butterworth winning that game the Y.M.C.A. had won the cup for the first time in their long history in the league. The final score was six sets to four.

The first match at Beauclair, in which Butterworth's play had been the dominating feature for the way he swept through Mulholland and Hetherington in the eighth and tenth sets to put his side on level terms, had left the Y.M. with a three games advantage and they tried to anticipate events by switching John Coveney to No. 1 and Butterworth to No. 2 for the

replay. As things transpired Balfour reverted to their normal order with the result that five of the pairings at Bootle were the same as those at Beauclair.

The big difference in the two matches was that whereas at Beauclair the Y.M. were always on the collar with Balfour leading them 3-1 and 4-2, the reverse happened at Bootle where the Y.M. won themselves into the happy position of leading 4-1.

Another big factor was that at Bootle we saw a different John Cain than we had seen at Beauclair. There he played very uncertainly, whereas at Bootle there was much more sureness about him.

To me the most interesting thing about the two matches were the two meetings between Harold Wilcock and Ron Jones. I have seldom seen the Balfour man play better and he came within an ace of taking the set at Bootle.

In the final game after having lost the first 20-22 and won the second 23-21, he changed ends leading 10-9. Four points later, however, he appeared to completely lose his touch so that Jones was able to establish a 17-12 lead. From that moment the set was over. Jones was confident; Wilcock was not, and the game ended 21-14 in favour of Jones.

Peter D'Arcy had set the Y.M. off on the winning trail with a comfortable win over Wilcock and although Norman Jones levelled with an equally easy victory over Coveney, the Y.M.C.A. proceeded to forge ahead.

Ron Jones drove Les Mulholland off the table; Cain got his revenge for the defeat which Les Davies had inflicted on him at Beauclair with a 21-14 win in the third, and Butterworth again beat Reg Hetherington although never showing form he had produced in the first match and needing three games to win.

Mulholland got a set back for Balfour by beating Coveney without a lot of difficulty, and so we came to the Ron Jones-Wilcock set and then the Norman Jones-Butterworth match and the end.

VITAL GAMES IN CUP VICTORY

By BRIAN LEESON

LIVERPOOL Y.M.C.A. C won the Hyde Cup after two very close games with Liverpool Cricket Club, either of which could have gone any way.

In the first match at the Police clubroom, the Cricket Club revised their order, playing Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Topping at Nos. 1 and 2 and leaving L. Lewis, R. Tyler and A. McKintosh to strengthen their tail, while the Y.M. played in the following order:— J. Donnelly, R. E. Jones, R. Smith, B. Cullen and J. Cullen.

Y.M. went straight into the lead with Donnelly putting himself on against Mrs. Lewis and winning in straight games and then McKintosh levelled the scores by defeating J. Cullen. But what a close thing it was! Leading 10-3 in the third game, McKintosh could not prevent Cullen from catching up and only just managed to scrape home 21-19.

Then came, for me, the first shock of the evening. Roy Smith was put on against the Cricketers' captain, Tyler, and, playing mainly an attacking game, Smith managed to win 21-17 in the third. Both players mixed attack with defence quite well, but it was Smith's more accurate attacking shots which gave him the victory.

A further surprise was to follow with the defeat of B. Cullen, for the first time in the season. Lewis was the man responsible and after taking the first game 21-12 he looked as if he would win two straight when he seemed to lose control and Cullen hit himself out of trouble to win the game. Point for point was exchanged in the third until the pair had reached the teens when a determined effort by Lewis gave him the game 21-15.

Jones followed with a comfortable win over Mrs. Lewis to give the Y.M. an interval lead of 3-2 which Donnelly immediately increased after the break by beating Mrs. Topping.

Then we had a further surprise in the second defeat of the evening of B. Cullen. This time it was McKintosh, who at first looked as if he would be overcome by Cullen's powerful forehand and backhand attacking shots, so much so that

Cullen took the first game 21-6. But it gave Cullen too much confidence, causing him to relax, and McKintosh's persistent defensive push shots wore him down and the Cricket Club player was able to take the next two games.

Tyler put the sides level by beating J. Cullen in straight games and Lewis got his side in front for the first time after a closely contested set with Jones. Smith, however, had no difficulty in gaining the replay for the Y.M., with the latter holding a three games advantage.

There were further team changes for the replay at Victoria Park where another exciting match was seen, but the vital games for the Y.M. were Smith's two victories over McKintosh and L. Lewis, the latter in the last set of the match, which won the cup for the Y.M.

McKintosh, however, again beat B. Cullen in probably the most nerve-racking and tense match of all. At that point Cullen had only to win to ensure his side of the cup, but McKintosh's defensive play once again succeeded although the result could not have been closer.

The details of the replay were (Y.M. names first):—

J. Cullen lost to R. Tyler 13-21 15-21; beat Mrs. D. Lewis 21-14 21-11. R. Jones lost to Tyler 20-22 17-21; lost to L. Lewis 21-15 9-21 11-21. J. Donnelly beat Mrs. Lewis 21-4 21-19; beat Mrs. Topping 21-14 21-19. R. Smith beat Lewis 15-21 21-17 21-15; beat A. McKintosh 21-13 21-14. B. Cullen beat Mrs. Topping 21-18 21-9; lost to McKintosh 17-21 21-12 23-25.

Mr. TOM LARKIN

The league has lost one of its most popular members and officials by the death of Mr. Tom Larkin, secretary of the Linacre Club. Mr. Larkin had filled that post for many years and had been its inspiration. For a time he served on the Management Committee where his counsel was much valued.

On behalf of Mrs. Larkin we would like to thank all the members of the league who sent her expressions of sympathy in her sad loss.

Worthy Champions

CONGRATULATIONS to Liverpool Y.M.C.A. on winning the league championship for the first time in their history. To use a racing phrase, they swept to their title on an easy rein, so much so that even though they dropped more points in their last four matches than they had done during the rest of the season, they still won by six clear points.

It is probably true to say that with the championship neatly in their pockets, the Y.M. players allowed their keenness to ease slightly in their final league games, and it is also true to say that their success has undoubtedly been a team affair and that credit for it must be shared by all five members of the side.

There is no doubt that the match which had the greatest effect in the last month of play was that in which Linnets defeated Anfield 9-1 in their final match. Bill Pierce made one of his rare appearances for Linnets and must have been a considerable factor in their success, so much so that there seemed little need for Linnets to claim the set of Maurice Oakes because he arrived a little late.

Linnets' victory assured their continuance in the first division and the relegation of Anfield with Waterloo Park.

It was just as well for some of the other teams in the division that Waterloo Park were unable to push home to victory two or three of the seven matches they drew during the season—no team in the league drew as many—otherwise one of them might have been going down instead of Waterloo.

THE end of the season has certainly seen the parting of the ways at the Litherland club, with the first team gaining promotion to the senior division and the A team being relegated to the third division. And the oddity of the situation is that this is just the reverse of what happened last year.

Litherland certainly won the division well and truly. No team in the league has dropped fewer points and the wishes of all must be that their coming stay in the first division will be of longer duration than was their last.

But can the stay of Victoria Park A, who are accompanying them, be expected to be as long. The Park club have been badly hit by the loss of players during the second half of the season and unless they can recoup their strength during the close season, the question might well be whether they can keep one team in the first division, let alone two.

Oakhill A will doubtless find themselves much happier against the slightly weaker opposition of Division 3. As constituted their team is not good enough for the second division.

Bohemians A, Cadwa, Lucem and Rafters are other teams which could do with a little more strength next season if they want to avoid the threat of relegation hanging over their heads for most of the season. The six points which Bohs picked up from three wins over Cadwa, Oakhill and Rafters in the last month, must have brought great relief to them and considerably lifted their points total.

BEAUCLAIR JUST MAKE IT

A FIRST class win over R.A.F.A. by seven sets to three in their final game won for Beauclair their promotion battle with Bath Street A. For this they could thank Brian Pardy and R. Weston, both of whom gained double victories. Both beat Quiggin, Pardy also defeated O'Connell and Weston beat Roberts.

It was a great finish to what had been a ding dong battle for second place to Victoria Park B, who had never been in doubt since the opening of the season.

The Bath Street players kept the fight up to the last, but even victories by 7-3 over Rafter's A and 9-1 over Bootle Y.M.C.A. B could not prevent them being pipped on the post. Incidentally it was also a great fight they put up in the Rumjahn Cup semi-final against Victoria Park B, only losing in the replay.

In Mike Truman and Ken Park, the Wavertree club have had two fine leaders and it will be interesting to see how they fare against the stiffer opposition of the second division.

Linnets A must have breathed a sigh of relief when they gained victories over Bootle Y.M. and English Electric and so ensured their remaining in the division. The four points they gained did them a power of good but they will need some strengthening next season if they want to retain their status.

★ ★ ★

HERE is a warning to teams which will constitute Division 3 next season. Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B are going to be a real danger in your midst next season. This team, which has won the Fourth Division, has proved that they are strong enough to take on the best that Division 3 can offer by twice holding your own champions to a draw and even winning the Rumjahn Cup from them by games advantage.

In addition, the Y.M.C.A. side has at least one player, Ted Briscoe, who is likely to be an even better and more experienced player next season. That, of course, may well mean his promotion to a higher Y.M. team next term.

Going up with the Y.M. are Harold House, another team with young players who are likely to improve so that they too will undoubtedly give a good account of themselves against the stiffer opposition they will be meeting.

Better luck next season to the University, who were just pipped by Harold House in the promotion battle. One more point would have seen them taking the place of their rivals for they had the slightly better sets average.

Last season Bohemians B just escaped relegation but the fates have not been so kind this time and, with Linnets B, who came up last year to fill a vacancy in the division, they drop down to Division 5. Both teams will need to be somewhat stronger next season if they hope to regain Fourth Division status.

Litherland B will also have to look to their laurels. They have only just kept their place in the division.

★ ★ ★

CONGRATULATIONS to Lussac on gaining promotion for the second season in succession and to Waterloo Dock A for a similar feat. It is quite an achievement to jump from the Sixth to the Fourth Division in two seasons.

Most of Lussac's success has been due to the fact that they are a well balanced side, as effective at the bottom as they are at the top. It seemed only fitting that the final match of the season should be between the two rivals for promotion with Lussac, Waterloo Dock and Anfield B.

The latter, with the advantage of their own table, had to win if they were to go up and just how hard they fought for victory can be gauged from the fact that four of the five sets which the Railway team won went to three games. Any one of those sets could have turned in favour of the Anfielders and put them into Division Four.

It is probable that owing to the fact that the division has been under strength that Bootle Y.M.C.A. C and Bath Street B will escape relegation, but they will have to do

An Outstanding Debut

better next season if they hope to remain in the division—a remark which must also apply to Cadwa B.

Beset with team difficulties as they have been, Florence Oxton could not be expected to do well. They have found their first season in Division Five a tough one, and we can but hope that next season will be trouble-free for them and that they will be able to make a real challenge for supremacy.

★ ★ ★

WITH the exception of Telecoms, Wavertree Labour have swept aside all opposition in Division Six. It seems odd that the Telecoms should be the only team to lower their colours, taking three points away from them in the season, especially as they themselves have been unable to win their way to a higher division.

The Labour Club's debut in a senior division has been a really worthwhile effort. Their success has been even more outstanding than it was in the South Region last season and they should be able to make their presence felt in Division Five.

Wavertree Baptists made a fine effort to wipe out the sets advantage which Liverpool Post Office had established over them earlier in the season, but it was their final match, when they could only win by six sets to four at Rafter's, that prevented them from doing so. It cost them promotion by two sets.

★ ★ ★

SINCE taking over the leadership of the North Region by defeating the Royal Ordnance Factory, Waterloo Park B have maintained their supremacy and a great finish to the season leaves them worthy champions. During the last month they dropped only seven sets, which is a fine indication of their strength compared to the other teams in the region, and they should be able to more than hold their own in Division Six next season.

The Park have been in a very fortunate position in that they have had three such players as Rumph,

Chapman and Horwood, any two of whom could take the leading places and do credit to the side.

From the outset of the season it was obvious that the R.O.F. were also promotion bound despite the fact that they dropped a point in their first match. In Wilkinson they have a more than useful No. 1 who has been well backed up by Shiers, Scott and Kelly. Like the champions they, too, should give a good account of themselves against the stiffer opposition they will now meet.

Warbreck A were late entrants into the region and they have made their presence felt. It only needed a little more consistency on their part and they would have been making an even stronger challenge to Waterloo Park B and R.O.F.

What a pity it was that Hansons somewhat blotted their escutcheon when they failed to turn up for their re-arranged match with Bootle Y.M.C.A. D during a season when they appeared to have adopted as their motto "Nil Desperandum".

With so many promising youngsters to call on, better things have been expected from Bootle Y.M., but it must not be forgotten that some of the youngsters were very green at the outset of the season. The bleeding they have had will do them a lot of good.

★ ★ ★

NO miracle having taken place, Liverpool Cricket Club have won the South Region, with the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. C running them a very close second. There is no doubt that they are the two strongest teams in this year's regions. Not only were they this close together with the league, but they were Hyde Cup finalists and it took two matches to decide the cup.

I said it would be a brave man who forecast the Hyde Cup winners, writes Jim Green, and though the Y.M.C.A. won at the second attempt, they had to earn their win. The four games this season between the teams finished (Cricket Club first) 6-4 and 5-5 in the league, and

LITTLE BETWEEN THEM

5-5 and 4-6 in the cup, so there is not much to choose between the two. Events seem to prove that the Cricket Club are stronger at Nos. 1, 2 and 3 while the Y.M.C.A. have the more balanced team.

I was taken to task for omitting to mention Alistair McIntosh in last month's notes. That was a deliberate mistake. I was talking of "years of service" of the members of the top teams in the division. Alistair has only played for two seasons. I do not belittle his ability—rather do I extend praise for the results he has obtained, and for the vast help he has been to his team in winning honours.

I like the look of the Wavertree Labour side. Mainly young players, they can, with practice in the close season, show a clean pair of heels to some of the more mature players. And what is very important—the Labour Club annually grows more and more keen, with resultant success.

Beauclair, Stanley House and Fairlawn can all give a good game to the best, but for my money I take a team of keen young players to succeed over a period.

The Crawfords teams can improve their position, but as a club they labour under that penalty attached to works teams in that they cannot go outside the works for players to add strength when needed.

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TO Police B and Wavertree Labour A went the distinction of being the only clubs who could stop the otherwise victorious march of St. Edward's Old Boys during the season and since both of those

drawn matches occurred early on, the Old Boys won their championship of the North Region on a tight rein.

O'Keefe, Smith and O'Shaughnessy must all have excellent records. Indeed, few players have been able to do much against the Old Boys' No. 1, who has conceded less than ten points in many of his games.

One of his toughest was against Byrne, of Wavertree Labour, who took him to a deuce in the third. O'Keefe will be all the better for the sterner opponents he will probably meet next season. Indeed, that might be said of the whole team, for continuing success is sometimes liable to breed over-confidence and a certain laxity in play.

After Wavertree Labour's 9-1 victory over Crawfords, it was pretty certain that they would be the side who would gain promotion with St. Edward's. The two extra points they gained in that match gave them an advantage which they held to the end. And they have deserved their success for the whole team has fought hard throughout the season, despite the fact that some of their matches have been much closer than the scores indicated.

Bird's Eye need not be disheartened by their lack of success in their first season in the league. Experience in competitive table tennis is a great thing. This season has given them just that and they must surely be able to hope to do better in coming seasons.

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Great Show Cadwa!

A FEW short weeks ago it looked as if Cadwa Y had the Central Region "in the bag", but a tremendous last minute burst by University put them ahead by a single point to take the step up to the Sixth Division, says Jim Green.

Their last three games gave them five points—dropping one at Linnets—but the effort needed to catch up a long lead, even with games in hand, is greater than to keep "level pegging" right through, and full marks must be given for the extra effort they put in to pip Cadwa.

It will be interesting to see the line up next year. I hope to see a Youth Division at more or less full strength, in which case there may not even be a Central Region, but whatever the set-up we should find a few more genuine youth teams entered.

To the three from this season, we have seen that there ARE young players in the league who can put up some good performances, and the more of them there are the brighter is the outlook for the game in Liverpool. To those who have played this season I suggest that the close season is the time to speed up the footwork and to iron out those more awkward shots.

St. Edward's have had a somewhat frustrating season. Playing in a division well under strength, they have not had the incentive of gaining experience as have the youth teams, nor did they manage to earn promotion. We hope that next year will see them more fully occupied and with greater success.

WELL done Cadwa on winning your first championship of the women's divisions. No club has gained it more worthily. At one time it looked as though you might be pipped in your endeavour, especially when you suffered your only defeat at Rafter's, who can claim the distinction of taking three points from you as a result of the drawn match in the final league game which occurred in the middle of your two cup battles.

There is no doubt that Cadwa owe much of their success to their captain, Ivy Crafter. She has been an inspiration to her side and has spurred them on to their champion-

ship as well as to their winning of the Bartholomew Cup.

Few people would have thought that Oakhill would have pipped Rafter's for second place when the pair met in the second week of the season and Rafter's swamped them to the tune of 10-0. But Oakhill are another club where they have a captain who will fight like a lion—or should it be a lioness—and so inspire her team-mates. And in Mabel Frances, Edna Moore has found a player like herself. What a pity it was for Oakhill that Ann Allen and Lil Robinson did not have a slightly better season.

Rafter's could have been expected to have made a greater challenge to Cadwa than they did—always, of course, omitting their cup effort. All four members of the team have real ability and it was rather surprising to see them held to a 5-5 draw by Bath Street and only scoring a 6-4 victory over Waterloo Park.

Despite their 6-4 win over Bath Street, when they had the help of Muriel Wilcox, Bohemians could not prevent themselves from finishing up second from bottom, one place worse than they finished last season. There is an obvious need at the Stoneycroft club for a couple of stronger players to lead the team.

FROM second from bottom to top of the division is quite a transformation. So it has been with Wavertree Labour in the second division. They successfully held off the challenges of both Sefton and Bohemians A and just to show there was no ill-feeling, beat both of them by seven sets to three in friendly matches.

Despite the fact that they beat Sefton by six sets to four, Bohemians lost the second position in the table to their rivals by one set. They made a brave effort in their final match of the season against Rafter's A, winning 8-2, but it proved to be not just enough.

The girls from the Technical College deserve every praise for their lion-hearted courage. It must be depressing to be able to average only half a set a match, but that fact does not seem to have upset them.