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**TABLE
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DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE *Digest* TENNIS

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EDITORIAL BOARD:

Editor: **Eric Caird**

J. C. McKim and J. D. Pattison

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No. 1

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

BY the time these notes appear in print, the new season will be well and truly under way. In several respects, season 1960/61 promises to be one of the most interesting since the war. Firstly, of course, is the re-organisation of the League, whereby the old Regions have been abandoned and all teams absorbed into the eight Divisions comprising the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League. This, we feel to be a step in the right direction as for too long the 'nether regions' have given the impression of being a part of the League but not entirely of it, and the new arrangements should make each player more conscious of his position in the Liverpool League.

We feel, too, that the increase in the number of teams per division will bring added interest to the League Tables. For too many years now, the competitive interest in many sections of the League has disappeared long before the end of the season was in sight, in that teams involved in promotion or relegation battles have usually by that time been reduced to a minimum. The extension of the Leagues by the inclusion of two additional teams should have the effect of levelling out the standard of play and interest should be maintained almost to the last matches.

Table Tennis Digest, too, is under new Management and we feel it appropriate at this stage to say exactly where we stand. Albeit, the official journal of the Liverpool League—this magazine is nevertheless entirely independent of the Management Committee and is in no way bound to publish or support its views although like every other individual, it will be given the opportunity to state its case whenever the need arises.

This journal, however, is primarily an outlet for the views of each and every registered player in the League and it is to be hoped that as the season progresses, more and more players will be prompted to air their grievances and their points of view through these columns rather than in gossip around the club rooms.

In matters of policy, the *Table Tennis Digest* stands four square for an improvement in Liverpool Table Tennis by whatever means may be necessary. In this sense "improvement" includes not only a higher standard of play but also considerable improvement in match discipline, involving not only behaviour on the table but the prompt starting of matches and the maintenance of reasonable standards of turnout by clubs and individuals. It will be our endless endeavour to assist in the attainment of these objects.

In conclusion, it is appropriate that a tribute should be paid to the previous editor—Jack Pattison. To Jack, has fallen the task of developing *Table Tennis Digest* from sickly infant to its present healthy manhood and our sincere thanks are due to him for all the hard work which he has put in on behalf of the League members over the past years.

The magazine may not be all that everyone would wish it—it probably never will be—but this fact should not detract from the measure of appreciation due to a very enthusiastic worker in what might be regarded as a lost cause.

THE FIRST ESSENTIALS

AS most readers of this magazine are out of the beginner's stage, these articles are intended to improve the average club player. So many players in the league reach a certain standard by their own efforts—I hope to improve this standard by offering hints and tips in each monthly issue.

Although table tennis is an individual game, it is played by members of a team who represent a club, league or a business house. Therefore it is essential that all players should be correctly equipped to take part in a match. A clean, pressed table tennis shirt and shorts, white socks and clean white shoes. A pullover, if used, the same colour as the shirt. Dress has become very slovenly of late, so it is up to the present members of all table tennis teams in the league to improve this situation.

Good fitting clothes and footwear, and a good choice of bat, are the first essentials in dealing with improvements in your game. There are players one would call "flashy"—those who hit brilliant patches and then suddenly succumb to quite ordinary opponents, and there are those solid, steady players who don't catch the eye of the spectator but who always finish on the winning side of a game.

COMBATTING SANDWICH

The reason for this is that their game is built on a sounder foundation and the ball is "controlled" in every shot. In choosing a bat, find one that gives you most control of the ball in all aspects of the game, whether it be an orthodox pimpled bat or a sandwich one. My hints will deal mainly with the orthodox bat and how to combat the sandwich.

So much for equipment—now let's start on one of the most misused and neglected sides of the game—"The Service". I should think only a quarter of the players in the league serve correctly.

How many rest the ball in the palm of a flat hand, fingers extended? How many throw the ball back to the bat in order to get

spin on it, instead of impelling the ball vertically upward from the palm before striking it? How many strike the ball straight off the palm?

Let us practice the service correctly on the forehand side and then the backhand side, remembering to position yourself facing threequarters towards the table and with left foot forward and right foot to the side and slightly back for the forehand, and for the backhand with right foot forward and left foot to the side and slightly back.

So many players monotonously serve the same shot throughout each game, causing their opponent no distress. The object of serving correctly is to provide as much variety as possible so that your opponent has to "move" differently to return each one. Let me mention some varieties of service you can practice:—

First of all, on the forehand side;

- (a) Serve diagonally across the table from right to left with top spin i.e. (the bat brushed behind, forward, and upwards on the ball).
- (b) Down the right hand side, of the table.
- (c) To the centre of the opposite side, into your opponent's body.

These should be practised at slow and fast paces, varying the amount of top spin on the ball.

Now turn slightly left with right shoulder nearer the table and try—

- (a) the backhand top spin service diagonally across the table from left to right.
- (b) The backhand top spin service down the left hand side of the table.
- (c) Then the one to the centre into your opponent's body.

After you have tried these six services, then attempt to try very short ones just clearing the net, by striking the ball delicately so that it doesn't bounce too high.

Try the three directions on the forehand and backhand side until you can do them instinctively.

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PRESIDENT'S AWARD

(by John McKim)

THOSE of you who were present at the Annual General Meeting last May will recall that the meeting unanimously agreed that some tangible recognition should be made of the esteem in which we hold our President, Mr. C. E. Bartholomew.

The Committee considered this matter at length and decided that in view of the age and circumstances of our President an Illuminated Address would be the most suitable way of showing our appreciation of his long and distinguished service.

The Address was subsequently prepared and was on view to League secretaries at the handbook meeting in September last, and a few weeks ago your Chairman, Mr. Upton, and myself visited Mr. Bartholomew at Hoylake and during the course of the evening Mr. Upton presented the Address to the President, and he has asked me, through this article, to express his thanks for the thought behind the

presentation, and to remember him to all his old friends that unfortunately he can not get around to meet these days.

We were very pleased to find that despite his 90 years, the President was in good form and showed an interest in League affairs that would have done credit to many men half his age.

Mr. Bartholomew asked the Chairman and myself to look around the League this season and at the end of the season to inform him of the lady and gentleman who, in our opinion, had done most during the season to bring credit to the League from both a palying and sporting point of view. He will then make a presentation to both these players.

This is a chance for everybody, particularly the young players, to win the President's Award, for this award will not of necessity go to the best players, but to those who show most progress and interest in the game during the season.

Continued from Page 4

When attempting the short service, the backhand one is the easier to try and direct just over the net on your opponent's forehand side as this is the most difficult to return, as he has to reach for it, whereas a short one placed to the backhand side may be "flicked" back.

There are now 12 variations to practice, in order that you are able to produce them whenever the opportunity arises to "wrong foot" your opponent, so as to make him move and reach for every ball.

When you have practised these varieties of service, conscientiously it is possible to increase your "repertoire" by imparting side spin and swerve by "dint" of experiment.

Next issue will deal with "controlling" your forehand and backhand strokes.

Continued from Page 3

Captain Mrs. Ivy Crafter, made a good start to their programme with a 7-3 win over Oldham, thanks to Mrs. Gladys Rimmer, Mrs. Betty Black and Miss Muriel Willcox, the first team went down by 10-0 at home to Stockport. Even Mrs. Moya Jones failed to notch a win, although she did force her opponents to three games in all her sets.

It would appear that it will again be a fight this season to maintain First Division status for the girls. The fact that Miss Andree Jones, who will be remembered by many of us as our great prospect of the post war years, until her premature retirement, was a spectator at the Stockport match does not help us very much. However, to be philosophical, like Mr. Micawber, something is bound to turn up.

THE TEAM CAPTAIN

(by Jim Green)

I HAVE been asked by our Editor to write a few lines on the art of captaincy. I am not sure whether this is a compliment to my ability or a means to secure the secrets of my bent for unusual skulduggery, but in either case I have very definite views on the duties of a team captain.

It is not enough that the captain gets to the club early enough to sweep the floor and has legible writing to ensure a pretty score-card. His ability to make tea is relatively unimportant. His major duty is to so arrange his players that he enhances his team's chance of success.

We have heard complaints of reserves playing at No. 1. THAT IS THE RIGHT AND PROPER POSITION FOR A RESERVE. Quite obviously, if he were good enough to win sets, even at No. 5 in his team, he would already be a regular member. If he is going to lose two, better to grant these to the opposing Nos. 1 and 2 than to the weaker Nos 4 and 5.

GUESSING MATCH

By moving down, his team-mates have a better opportunity of winning. So the filling of a score-card before the match, virtually becomes a guessing competition, and the better guesser usually gives his team a flying start.

His next duty is to put on those sets (in his turn) which he reckons his blokes can win. To put on an opponent because he "hasn't played yet" is a direct dereliction of his duty unless he KNOWS that his man will win. To take a beating from a better team in a proper spirit is sportsmanship, but to present the match to them because he likes to "give everyone a game in turn" is sheer stupidity.

By the same token, it is my firm opinion that unless prior arrangements have been made for late arrival, a good captain will claim sets according to the League rules. This is not a matter for his personal inclination. The League lays down certain rules for the conduct of matches, and NO CAPTAIN HAS THE RIGHT TO BREAK THE VERY RULES HE IS APPOINTED TO KEEP.

It is sheer conceit to put himself up as better to judge how to conduct a match than the majority of League clubs, who have made their views plain by creating this rule. Anyway, if a man does not come to time, he has no right to suppose that the opposing captain will ensure that he gets his two sets just whenever he should condescend to arrive. EVERY CAPTAIN OWES IT TO HIS TEAM to claim all such sets.

Incidentally, a good captain should TRY to instil into his team that it gives them a moral advantage to turn out DRESSED like a team—not like an odd collection of ill-dressed tramps or teddy-boys. This is difficult, I know, since every table tennis player seems to think that his tartan shirt and tight jeans (winkle picker shoes) constitutes the ideal attire for the sport, but it is a fact that if five players turn out in similar shirts, with reasonably clean shoes, they feel like a team.

IMPLIED INSULT

I am only sorry that the old League rule making it compulsory for each club to register a club colour and play in it, has been abolished. However, that involving track suits is still in force, and again, in my opinion, no captain should allow an opponent to play in any part thereof.

Apart from the upholding of the rule, he should not expose his opponent to the implied insult that he is so easy to beat that it is not necessary to take off the track suit. Table tennis is the only sport where anyone ever tries to play in such garb, and it is rotten bad manners at any time.

Having got this off my chest, I confidently expect to find a flood of tartan shirts, jeans, late arrivals, track suits, and co-respondent shoes throughout the League, since everyone will have to assert his independence. However, so long as these abhorrent practices do not arise in my own matches, it is up to the captain concerned, to deal with them.

AROUND THE CLUBS

A PLEASING little ceremony took place in the club room of Linacre immediately prior to the commencement of the season when Harry Reeve, their No. 1 player, was presented with a leather writing case on his leaving the club to take up an appointment as a Junior Engineer with the P.S.N.C. on the Saturday before the season opened. Harry's record during his 2½ years with the club had been most consistent, showing 72 wins out of a total of 94 sets played—an average of 77%. In his place Linacre have recruited Ron Purnell, late of Anfield, and there is no doubt in our mind at least, that if he is not very happy indeed in his new surroundings, then he will have only himself to blame. This small club of little more than a handful of players is one which excites the greatest admiration for not only do they contrive to turn out a full side week in and week out, but at all times offer the greatest friendliness and hospitality to their rivals as well as maintaining the highest traditions of sportsmanship in victory and defeat alike. They have the best wishes of this magazine for their continued success both on and off the table.

* * *

It is with great regret that we have to report the illness of Miss Margaret Lindner to whom we send best wishes for a full and speedy recovery. Margaret is one of those unobtrusive members of the Management Committee who is ever willing to carry out any tasks entrusted to her. We well remember the many little kindnesses in which she indulged when acting as Women's Representative including personal little notes of congratulations or commiseration to lady players of whatever club according to the circumstances. Untiring workers are hard to come by at any time and their absence through sickness is felt the more so. Get well soon, Margaret, it will be nice to have you about again.

* * *

As unobtrusively as he commenced playing competitive table tennis, Jack McCaig has left it—announcing his retirement shortly after the season commenced. His decision caused some surprise amongst the members of Ratters as there was no sign that his play was any less forceful than in previous seasons. Perhaps not the greatest stylist in the game, Jack was nevertheless possessed of a most consistent and aggressive attack, which, coupled with a stubbornness, disinclined to accept defeat until after the very last shot had been played and lost, made him a worthy opponent whom it was always a credit to beat. It is good to know that it is only pressure of activities in other directions which has compelled him to give up competitive play, and that his vast experience will continue to be available to the League and to his club.

Another popular figure missing from the early Ratters line-up, was Albert Montgomery—"Monty" to us all—and it is with pleasure that we report that after missing the first nine matches, he returned to the Ratters 'B' team for their Rumjahn Cup match against Fairlawn, 'A' where he exhibited all his old ebullience.

Congratulations are extended to Des and Elizabeth Loughrey on the safe arrival of a baby girl, and to Doris Tynan and Gloria Hughes on their marriages. Jo and Myra Lovelady are also to be congratulated on adding a new junior member to an already lengthening list. A warm welcome was extended to new members Lyn and Ralph Charlton, Ray Harrison and Bill Tobin.

* * *

Congratulations to Bob Mason, of Victoria Park, on becoming a daddy for the second time. It is to be hoped that baby-sitting won't interfere with his efforts to make his mark in this his first season in Division 1.

CANDID COMMENTS

by The Editor

PERHAPS the most striking thing about this issue of the *Digest* is the completely spontaneous association of ideas of individual contributors in the matter of the match dress. There is no doubt at all that table tennis is one of the Cinderella sports insofar as turnout is concerned, which is somewhat surprising when it is remembered that whereas other sporting activities call for kit which has no use beyond its specific purpose, table tennis requires standard dress which can be used for purposes other than table tennis. Despite this, teams still contrive to turn out in the oddest form of dress to the detriment of the club in particular and to the sport in general.

It is interesting to note in a contributed article, the reference to a pre-war rule of the League, whereby team colours had to be registered with the League. Perhaps there is a thought here to exercise the imagination of the Management Committee and individuals might care to express themselves on this subject in letters to the *Digest*.

POOR STANDARD OF UMPIRING

A thought occurred to us the other evening whilst watching boxing on the television . . . the referee of the bout called both boxers to the centre of the ring, prior to the commencement of hostilities, and reminded them of certain fundamental rules which he was there to see were enforced. It seemed to us that this might be a practice which could profitably be extended to table tennis the more so after analysing several sets during a match in the following week. Those taking part were all experienced players fully conversant with the rules and yet proceeded to break practically every basic law of the game including serving over the table, outside the tramlines, putting their free hand on the table and serving from a cupped hand instead of from a flat palm.

That the umpire allowed these irregularities to go unchecked because he himself was ignorant of

the rules, we find hard to believe. Possibly more to the point was his desire not to cause unpleasantness. Perhaps a brief reminder to both players before commencing play that these were fundamental rules which would be strictly enforced, would have served as a sharp reminder and the breaches of regulation not taken place.

PLAYING SHORT

We regret to note both from a letter from M. E. Travis, printed elsewhere in this magazine, and from personal observation, that the old discourtesies of turning up late (or not at all) and leaving early, are cropping up again this season. We cannot emphasise strongly enough that the responsibility for this sort of thing lies fairly and squarely on the team captains who should play a much more prominent part in the stamping out of this unnecessary evil.

With local boundaries ever widening and housing going further out from the city centre, more and more players are being compelled to make longer journeys to table tennis matches and we feel most strongly that they have every right to believe that the matches, which are the object of their travels, will be conducted on a properly organised basis and we have every sympathy with the attitude of Wavertree Baptist T.T.C. in claiming sets of any player who has not presented himself by 8 p.m.

DIFFICULTIES IN WOMEN'S DIVISION

It is very interesting to compare Jim Green's "Duties of a team captain" with Eileen Mansell's comments on the difficulties of getting the better lady players to take part in the women's division. On the one hand, we have the astute team captain regulating his playing order to meet the anticipated strengths and weaknesses of the opposing team, whilst on the other, we have the attitude of the better player being deprived of a reasonable match by being confronted with the weakest player on the other side. *Continued on Page 16*

Around the Divisions

Division 1

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | P |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Rafters | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 58 | 22 | 15 |
| Balfour | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 15 | 14 |
| L'pool YM | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 48 | 22 | 11 |
| Bootle YM | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 45 | 25 | 11 |
| Bohemians | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 37 | 33 | 8 |
| Oakhill | 7 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 31 | 39 | 8 |
| Linnetts | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 38 | 32 | 6 |
| Anfield | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 30 | 30 | 6 |
| Bath St. | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 32 | 38 | 5 |
| L'pool YM A | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 29 | 41 | 4 |
| Victoria Pk | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 20 | 40 | 3 |
| Litherland | 7 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 22 | 48 | 3 |
| Vic. Park A | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 21 | 39 | 2 |
| Waterloo Pk. | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 14 | 56 | 0 |

POSSIBLY the most surprising thing about the new season is the number of people who appear to be surprised at being faced with four extra matches per season. Some are wondering how this came about, being of the opinion that no rule amendments to that effect were carried at the A.G.M.

Whilst this is quite true in part, it is nevertheless a fact that at the Annual General Meeting of the League, the resolution was passed by a large majority in favour of extending the number of teams in each Division in order that the several Regions might be eliminated.

It is said that the First Division is weakened still further by this move, but is it? Some good teams are still there but they now need to play two additional poorer teams. Is that bad? Maybe, but undoubtedly if it doesn't help the leading clubs, it will certainly assist those poorer teams to improve their play.

Who are the poorer teams anyway? Waterloo Park are the current wooden spoonists, having lost to Victoria Park "A"—another team fancied as candidates for the big drop.

Litherland, Oakhill, Liverpool Y.M.C.A. "A" and Victoria Park are all struggling and this year's big excitement is more likely to be around the bottom of the division than the top, where Balfour are already setting the pace, having lost but five sets in the first four games and it is going to take a very good club indeed to prevent them regaining the League title.

Division 2

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | P |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Waterloo Dk. | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 55 | 15 | 13 |
| Vic. Park B. | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 44 | 26 | 11 |
| Beauchair | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 47 | 23 | 10 |
| Bohemians A | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 46 | 24 | 10 |
| Bootle YM A | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 40 | 30 | 10 |
| Rafters A | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 38 | 32 | 9 |
| Bath St. A | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 37 | 33 | 9 |
| Balfour A | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 37 | 33 | 7 |
| R.A.F.A. | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 28 | 42 | 5 |
| Litherland A | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 26 | 44 | 4 |
| Anfield A | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 25 | 45 | 4 |
| Oakhill A | 7 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 25 | 45 | 3 |
| Cadwa | 7 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 23 | 47 | 3 |
| Lucem | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 19 | 51 | 0 |

IN Division 2, Waterloo Dock appear to have decided to make this their year for the return to Division 1. Rafters "A" looked likely followers but having dropped a match against a mediocre Balfour "A", give the impression of an inconsistency which might prevent them reaching the heights.

Beauchair could well be a new name in the Division 1, next year, particularly as they have added to their playing strength and are going well. R.A.F.A. are also doing well—another "one-team club", whom we wish well.

Lucem are around the bottom of this division—a strange place for them and no doubt they will be taking the necessary steps to remedy this state of affairs. Anfield "A" and Oakhill "A" are going up to take their place.

* * *

Division 3

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | P |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Fairlawn | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 48 | 22 | 11 |
| University | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 42 | 28 | 11 |
| Bootle YM B | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 40 | 30 | 10 |
| L.P.A.S. | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 38 | 32 | 10 |
| L'pool YM B | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 40 | 30 | 8 |
| Cadwa A | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 32 | 38 | 8 |
| Balfour B | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 32 | 28 | 7 |
| English Elec. | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 35 | 35 | 7 |
| Rafters B | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 31 | 29 | 7 |
| Linnet A | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 36 | 34 | 6 |
| Harlod Hse | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 28 | 32 | 4 |
| Linacre | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 25 | 35 | 2 |
| Vic. Park C | 5 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 18 | 32 | 1 |
| W'loo Pk A | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 15 | 55 | 0 |

DIVISION 3 has a most open look about it this year, with several teams having the necessary playing strength to make the sustained effort for promotion.

L.P.A.S. and University are two clubs to watch in this division and it is interesting to note that the combined ages of two members of the Police team would probably be not far short of the combined ages of all the University team, whilst Rafter's "B" must surely be ranked as one of the "weightiest".

This Division houses Linacre, a "one-team club" with more or less the same old faces, who, though they never win any medals, are always to the forefront where sportsmanship and hospitality are concerned.

* * *

Division 4

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | P |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Sefton Gen. | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 15 | 14 |
| Lussac | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 37 | 23 | 11 |
| Vic. Park D. | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 43 | 27 | 10 |
| Anfield B | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 41 | 29 | 8 |
| W'loo Dk A | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 35 | 35 | 7 |
| Cadwa B | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 38 | 42 | 7 |
| Linnet B | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 38 | 32 | 6 |
| Bath St. B | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 29 | 31 | 6 |
| L.P.A.S. A | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 33 | 37 | 6 |
| Oakhill B | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 29 | 41 | 5 |
| Litherland B | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 27 | 33 | 5 |
| Bohemians B | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 31 | 29 | 4 |
| Balfour C | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 30 | 2 |
| Bootle YM C | 7 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 14 | 56 | 1 |

SEFTON GENERAL are warding off all challengers in Division 4, but Lussac are making their presence felt and will be trying hard to restrict their stay in Division 4 to one season only.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. "C" and Balfour "C" are companions in distress and their stay in Division 4 will not last terribly long if some improvement is not made very rapidly.

* * *

Division 5

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | P |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Wvtree Lab. | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 4 | 12 |
| Wvtree Bap. | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 49 | 21 | 11 |
| Liverpool CC | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 7 | 10 |
| Rafter's C | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 39 | 31 | 10 |
| Fairlawn A | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 40 | 20 | 8 |
| Telecomms | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 30 | 30 | 8 |
| Liverpool PO | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 33 | 37 | 7 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Nalgo | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 25 | 35 | 5 |
| Bootle Nalgo | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 29 | 31 | 4 |
| Co-op. | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 23 | 47 | 4 |
| Bohemians C | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 20 | 40 | 2 |
| W'loo Pk. B | 7 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 59 | 1 |
| Dom. Mis. | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 12 | 48 | 0 |

STEAMING away at the top of Division 5 are Wavertree Labour who have shaken off the challenge of old rivals Wavertree Baptists and look set for a move up to Division 4, although they are wondering if the youthful enthusiasm can be maintained during the four years necessary to climb into Division 1.

It is good to see different clubs moving up, although Rafter's "C" are determined to do their best to stop Wavertree and keep the established clubs to the fore.

Dark horses in this Division could well be Liverpool C.C.—another comparatively new club with some well known names.

* * *

Division 6

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | P |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Wav. Lab. A | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 64 | 6 | 14 |
| Fairlawn B | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 47 | 23 | 11 |
| Beauclair A | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 50 | 20 | 10 |
| St. Ed. O.B. | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 37 | 13 | 9 |
| Crawfords | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 38 | 22 | 9 |
| L'pool YM C | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 42 | 28 | 9 |
| University A | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 28 | 32 | 6 |
| Cadwa C | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 31 | 39 | 6 |
| Stanley Hse | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 24 | 46 | 5 |
| Bath St. C | 7 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 27 | 43 | 3 |
| L.P.A.S. B | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 32 | 3 |
| Beauclair B | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 36 | 3 |
| Anfield C | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 18 | 42 | 2 |
| St. Ed. OB A | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 12 | 58 | 0 |

WHEN success comes to clubs, it often permeates through the teams and such appears to be the case in Division 6, with Wavertree Labour "A" making a running with St. Edwards O.B. and Beauclair "A" both hard on their heels and it looks like a keen fight for promotion in this division.

Stanley House and St. Edwards O.B. "A" share the bottom end of the table, with Anfield lying handy enough to change over if the others decide to win occasionally.

Division 7

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | P | |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| L'pool CC | A | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 15 | 14 |
| Crawfords | A | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 18 | 14 |
| Wav. Lab. | B | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 49 | 21 | 12 |
| Rafters | D | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 42 | 28 | 10 |
| Nalgo A | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 47 | 23 | 9 | |
| Bootle YM | D | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 35 | 35 | 9 |
| Eng. Elec. | A | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 39 | 31 | 7 |
| Eng. Elec. | B | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 34 | 26 | 6 |
| Tech. Studs. | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 30 | 40 | 5 | |
| Fairlawn C | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 27 | 43 | 4 | |
| Lewis's | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 29 | 41 | 2 | |
| Oakhill C | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 18 | 52 | 2 | |
| Linnet C | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 14 | 46 | 2 | |
| Crawfords | B | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 9 | 61 | 0 |

A BATTLE royal rages at the top of Division 7 and although Liverpool C.C. "A" have the edge at the moment, who is to say that Crawfords "A" won't "take the biscuit" at the end of the season.

Division 8

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | P | |
|------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| Brenka | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 72 | 8 | 16 | |
| University | B | 7 | 5 | 1 | 42 | 28 | 11 | |
| Brenka A | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 45 | 25 | 10 | |
| Litherland | C | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 40 | 30 | 10 |
| Harold Hse | A | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 37 | 33 | 10 |
| Colonsay | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 39 | 31 | 8 | |
| Wav. Lab. | C | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 35 | 35 | 7 |
| L'pool CC | B | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 40 | 30 | 6 |
| W'loo Pk | C | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 26 | 44 | 5 |
| L.Y.C.A. | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 33 | 27 | 4 | |
| Co-op. A | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 23 | 47 | 4 | |
| Sefton A | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 44 | 3 | |
| Lewis's A | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 17 | 53 | 2 | |
| Linnet D | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 15 | 45 | 0 | |

IT is in Division 8, that we welcome new Clubs—L.Y.C.A. and Colonsay. The former got off to a cracking start with a 9-1 win over Lewis's "A" but have done little since then, whilst Colonsay have made a very sound start for a new club.

Brenka and Waterloo Park are obvious teams to watch in this division.

Altogether, a good start to a new season with one which promises much interest right up to the end.

Women's Division - Eileen Mansell

Opportunity Missed

HOW many of the lady players in the Liverpool League have availed themselves of the opportunity to play in both the mixed and women's divisions? It must be a very small percentage. It is only the really keen players who will grab at the chance to do so.

Play in the men's divisions is more likely in due course to tighten up their game than play in the women's division—but then the majority of players just want a pleasant social evening and are not really terribly bothered if they get a hiding or not—I am sure very few of them lose any sleep over it.

Women's Division

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | P |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Cadwa | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 64 | 6 | 14 |
| Rafters | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 49 | 21 | 12 |
| Oakhill | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 48 | 22 | 11 |
| Bohemians | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 50 | 10 | 11 |
| Linnet | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 42 | 28 | 9 |
| Bohemians A | 7 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 39 | 31 | 8 |
| Bath Street | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 42 | 18 | 8 |
| Wvrtree Lab | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 38 | 22 | 8 |
| Bibbys | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 33 | 37 | 6 |
| Orrell | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 32 | 38 | 5 |
| Cadwa A | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 22 | 38 | 4 |
| Waterloo Pk | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 23 | 47 | 4 |
| Rafters A | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 16 | 54 | 4 |
| Huntley & P | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 20 | 50 | 2 |
| L.P.A.S. | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 8 | 62 | 0 |
| Bootle Nalgo | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 46 | 0 |

The Bohemians team this year has been strengthened by Moya Jones and Muriel Wilcox but unfortunately for these two players, the opposing teams in some cases have been playing their weaker players in the 1 and 2 positions—no doubt in the hope of winning their points from the lower half of the team. Whilst there is no rule against them doing this, I think the players will eventually spoil it for themselves by driving the better players out of the women's division although it was the average player who complained that they did not get a chance to meet stronger opposition. I will never know why teams will not play in order of strength. Surely it is better to have a good game and lose, than a very mediocre one and win.

BALFOUR WITHDRAW

Balfour were all set this season to enter a team in the women's division but unfortunately with losing their old premises they also lost one or two lady players who were about to join but refrained from doing so owing to the additional travelling caused by the removal to new headquarters.

These facts coupled with the decision of Julie Roberts to give table tennis a miss this year in favour of badminton, forced the Balfour club to withdraw its ladies team much to the regret of Joyce Randall and myself. I cannot speak for Joyce, but certainly so far as I am concerned, if any club is hard pushed for lady players, I should be only too pleased to help out for this season in the hope that perhaps next season will see Balfour in a happier position.

CADWA'S RISING STAR

Cadwa still seem to be in a very strong position again this season and have in their first team, the youngest female player in the League—Judy Crafter who has come in at No. 4 and who is holding her own remarkable well. I am sure we will be hearing a lot about her in the very near future. Judy, I know, has improved considerably during the closed season. She did exceedingly well at the Butlin's Holiday Camp Tournament and won herself a week's instruction from some of England's top coaches. She is, of course, greatly encouraged by her family and by the Cadwa club as a whole, so at last Liverpool has one up and coming star very much in evidence.

The Cadwa team is in no way weakened by Judy's inclusion, even though they are without Pauline Lawrenson for the early part of the season. Pauline is expecting a "happy event" any time soon.

OLD RIVALRIES RESUMED

It is a little early to predict who will win the honours this season but for the past few years, Cadwa and Rafter's have been very keen rivals and very much to the fore in battle for championship honours.

Elizabeth Loughrey is once more

skipping the Rafter's side and I feel that hers will be one of the teams to watch this season.

ANOTHER RISING STAR

A much improved player this season is Mabel Francis, of Oakhill, who has jumped from No. 4 to No. 1 position in her team. She is the player I predicted last season would do well when she had had more experience for she certainly has the enthusiasm and determination which is as necessary as ability to get to the top in any sport. She entered the North of England tournament in Manchester earlier in the season and played extremely well in what was her first tournament outside Liverpool. I am sure it will give her quite a lot of encouragement for future tournaments.

NEW BATS FOR OLD

The sandwich bat seems to be gradually taking over from the ordinary pimpled rubber. For my part I don't like it, but then when I started playing the game, the bats were of cork and sandpaper and I suppose that over a period of years, it is inevitable that changes will be made in the composition of the racket. It seems that the sandwich bat will be here for a long time to come. Quite a few of the women players seem to have taken to it and are doing quite well, including Moya Pattison, Judy Crafter and Lill Facey, of Orrell.

It is also very pleasant to see the clean white shoes which are becoming such a feature of matches. I am sure most girls clean them before every match—a point which the gentlemen players might note (with the exception of Alan Lawson and Peter Rumjahn, whose turnout is always immaculate). It makes all the difference in the world to the match if players turn out suitably attired and I am certain that the club badges which are now worn by the majority of players gives them that little something extra both in appearance and morale. This is a point which might well be taken up by those clubs who are at present lagging behind in the matter of match dress. What about it?

YOUR CHANCE TO HIT OUT

Ralph Gunnion writes:—

WHILST reading through the report of the A.G.M., of the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League, I noticed that the Management Committee had turned down the opportunity of staging an international match against China and also of putting on the English Open Championships.

It was said at the Annual General Meeting of the League, that Liverpool should be to the forefront of Table Tennis. The Management Committee by turning down this opportunity, are denying Liverpool public the chance of seeing how table tennis is really played.

I also notice in the Table Tennis notes in the *Liverpool Echo*, that if the proposal of the E.T.T.A. to make a levy of 2/6d. on all players next season is carried, the Management Committee may consider breaking away from the E.T.T.A.

Surely, even the Liverpool League with all its stupidity, couldn't break away, in view of the consequences which arose from a similar decision in regard to the L.T.T.A. At that time, Liverpool had both a men's and women's team in each of the first divisions of the Lancashire League and it was during this period in the wilderness that the standard of Liverpool table tennis sank very considerably.

With such a great body of experts on the Committee, surely there is warning enough in the previous breakaway to make them see the light of day so much so that if they break away this time, they might as well finish the League, because we will never again have and good players. The great

danger, of course, is that if and when it is decided to change face and apply for re-admission to the E.T.T.A., it might be refused.

Mr. J. McKim, the Secretary of the League, replies as follows:—

TO be allocated a match on the Chinese tour we had to guarantee to the E.T.T.A. a profit of £250, in addition to the expenses of the touring team, approximately £50, hire of hall, printing, transport of equipment, and advertising, etc. another £50 at the very least. This meant a gate of 2,400 at 2/6d. each, and in the light of our past experience (90 at the Merseyside Open finals, a few hundred at the *Daily Mirror* finals, with Victor Barna playing), it appeared reasonable to assume that the League might well lose a couple of hundred pounds. Would Mr. Gunnion have agreed with this, and the consequent increase in his affiliation fees the following year?

Regarding our not affiliating to the E.T.T.A., first of all let us be quite clear about this. Any opinion of this kind published in the *Liverpool Echo* is a purely personal opinion of the writer and not the views of the Management Committee. The Committee did, in fact, mention this point at the A.G.M., but Mr. Gunnion may rest assured this would mean a rule change, so can only be done by the clubs themselves voting for it. It is entirely out of the Committee's hands.

Incidentally, the League, at no time, ceased to be affiliated to the L.T.T.A.; this also would have meant a rule change.

This reply is, of course, my own opinion and in no way reflects the Committee's views.

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Where the money goes

ALTHOUGH each club secretary receives a copy of the accounts of the League every year, it is probable that only a very few members actually see or make a study of them.

The annual income from registration fees of both clubs and players is approximately £300—almost exactly equalling expenditure, as the following table clearly shows:—

| | |
|---|------------|
| Affiliation fees—E.T.T.A. ... 38 | |
| Affiliation fees—L.T.T.A. ... 11 | |
| | — 49 |
| Printing (Score books, score cards and registration forms) | 17 |
| Telephones | 58 |
| Postages and sundry secretarial expenses | 36 |
| Hire of rooms for general and committee meetings | 3 |
| Printing Handbook | 63 |
| Less received from advertisers | 36 |
| | — 27 |
| Equipment for representative games and tournaments ... | 19 |
| Medals, plaques, trophies etc. | 37 |
| Cost of running 6 teams in Lancashire League (travelling etc.) | 33 |
| Miscellaneous (including insurance) | 14 |
| | — |
| | 293 |
| | — |

leaving an excess of income over expenditure of £7.

It will readily be appreciated that

a balance of £7 leaves little margin for comfort, particularly when it is remembered that it is from the excessive income over expenditure that special items of expenditure have to be financed—the Stamp Award of Merit being a topical case in point.

It will be noticed that the above table does not include the Open and Closed tournaments and it must be borne in mind that where the latter contrives to show a profit of a few pounds, the former can (and does!) quite often result in a fairly substantial loss. Last year, for instance, a deficiency on the Open Championship was approximately £25 although the Management Committee are hopeful that this sum will be reduced this year without reducing the high standard of the tournament.

The *Digest* is excluded from the normal accounting for the League's finances as its publication is just about covered by the subscriptions from players and the money received from advertisers. It is interesting to note that the expenditure on the *Digest* is in the region of £220 but for the last year or so, touch wood, the magazine has been self-supporting (but only just).

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Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of Wavertree Baptist T.T. Club to complain strongly about the apparent lack of interest shown by a few teams in Division 5.

A Bootle Nalgo player arrived at 9 p.m. We travelled away to Waterloo Park to find only two players opposing us. A third player arrived at 8.50 but by that time we had reluctantly claimed the match. The other two players have not yet been sighted. This week we played the Co-op. One player arrived on time, his match was played by 8 p.m. and we waited patiently to see if any other Co-op player was interested in playing. Three others arrived at 10 minute intervals between 8.30 and 9 p.m. At 9.45 we once more had to claim the games of the missing player as we had given him up for lost.

On the debit side, one of our team did not arrive until 8.30 but had unsuccessfully tried to contact the captain to say he would be late.

We play table tennis as a sport and would rather play than claim games, but from next week we will claim games of any player who has not presented himself by 8 p.m..

Yours faithfully,

M. E. Travis

Wavertree Baptist T.T.C.

Continued from 9

Quite frankly, this argument had not occurred to us until Miss Mansell raised it in her notes so that whilst expressing every sympathy with the views expressed by Mr. Green, we must nevertheless come down on the side of Miss Mansell at least insofar as the women's division is concerned. For a long time now, there has been the legitimate complaint that women's table tennis in Liverpool has declined because the better players confine themselves to the mixed divisions thereby giving little or no opportunity to the bulk of women

players to play competitive matches against women players better than themselves, and the plea has been made on many occasions for all women to compete in the women's division irrespective of whether or not they play in mixed teams as well.

It now transpires that certain players have agreed to do just this, only to find their good intentions circumvented by captains using legitimate devices to secure much needed points in League warfare. This, we feel to be something of a short-sighted policy and we are convinced that the only way for the poorer players to benefit from activities of the better players is for matches to be played in order of playing strength, with the best at No. 1 and the weakest at No. 5. This is certainly food for thought but most important of all **WHAT DO YOU THINK?** Drop us a line and let us know.

THE PRESIDENT

We cannot let this issue go to press without commenting on the President's Award of which the League Secretary writes in fuller detail elsewhere in this issue. We would just like to say that this is but one further proof (if such be needed) of Mr. Bartholomew's unceasing interest in all our activities and it does not surprise us in the least, that his award will not go to a player who is solely proficient but to him and her who bring credit to the League in the dual capacity of player and sportsman.

It should make us all feel the more grateful to our President for his constant reminder that the game is more important than the prize and in this sense we confidently predict that the President's definition of "the game" embraces all that happens between the nominal commencement of the match at 7.30 p.m. and the final handshakes when the evening's activities are