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**TABLE  
TENNIS  
DIGEST**

*Official Magazine*

OF THE

**LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

# TABLE *Digest* TENNIS

All correspondence must be addressed to the Editor "Table Tennis Digest", "Polwarth", 21 Chatsworth Rd., Ainsdale, Southport

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No. 2

## A WORD OF EXPLANATION

**W**E have been greatly encouraged this last week or so to receive numerous telephone calls and enquiries regarding the next issue of the *Digest*—encouraged, because at least a few people have noticed its non-appearance in December.

This omission was intentional, for although we have not been long in the Editorial chair, we have already reached the conclusion that a December issue is quite impracticable owing to the chaotic state of postal communications from the middle of the month onwards. Many readers will recall the difficulty which was experienced in each of the last two years, culminating in 1959 in a number of subscribers failing to receive a copy at all.

Apart from this very practical consideration there is also the fact that the end of December normally marks the half-way stage in the Season's activities and the Editorial Board feel that an issue in January is more appropriate. In the future therefore the *Digest* will be issued in November, January, February, March and April.

Elsewhere in this issue we are taken to task by Mr. N. Cooke of Bath Street who poses the pertinent question "was the last issue worth it?". In sincerely thanking Mr. Cooke for his criticism (which is always good—it keeps us on our toes) we are pleased to be able to include in this issue, fuller notes on the Men's Divisions on which he had some bitter comments to make. We cannot agree with his contention that at one time news of the Divisions merited a full page for each, for during the period of which he speaks, there was something in the region of 12 Divisions and for each to have had a page for itself would have taken up almost the entire publication space of the *Digest* but we get his point and are grateful to at least one member of the League for feeling sufficiently strong about something, to write to us about it.

As a matter of interest, the extension of the Divisional notes has meant the omission of several contributed articles, simply because space could not be found for them. So there you have it. A straight choice between the *Digest* as it appeared last issue, with condensed divisional summaries but more articles of general interest, as compared with the current issue going into greater detail regarding individuals but cutting down on articles and general topics of interest. Anyone sufficiently interested to write to the *Digest* and pass comment? We wonder.!

The extension of the Divisional notes has meant of necessity the recruitment of Special Correspondents prepared to give the time and energy to the writing-up of the activities of their respective divisions and we are extremely grateful to Ken Jones, Jimmy Green, Brian Leeson, Ron McEvoy, John Taylor, Fred Winstanley and G. Morgan for rallying round at such short notice, and, of course, Eileen Mansell who was already "on the staff". The preparation and submission of notes involves a fair amount of work and the effort made should be all the more appreciated.

A Happy New Year to all our readers. We should like to include in the next issue a summary of New Year Resolutions which players and clubs have made and intend to keep!

# The Long Long Trail

(by Ray Hobson)

THE Merseyside Open Championships have now been held at Speke for four seasons, and the time seems ripe to look at the pattern which has emerged.

E.T.T.A. regulations permit the playing of qualifying rounds between local players (i.e. those living within twenty miles) before the main tournament. These have, on all four occasions, been fixed for the Friday evening before the Saturday of the main tournament, but twice they have been cancelled due to shortage of local entries.

It now seems clear that, while ample support for the Open can be expected from competitors living beyond the twenty-mile radius, who know that they will not be needed until Saturday, our own players and, more particularly, those from adjoining towns, are reluctant to risk the long, long trail to Speke at rush hour on a Friday with the prospect, if kept late, of difficulty in getting

home. No doubt this problem will have consideration before the next Open.

At all the Speke Opens our visitors have been delighted with the playing conditions. Among those who complimented us this year were T. Caffrey, of Ireland, and our Veteran winner, H. Spiers from Birmingham who, alone among our singles champions, managed to retain his title. Pam Mortimer went out of the Women's Singles in her first round; Laurie Landry survived the Men's Singles only to the semi-final and C. Thomas, of Llandudno, departed from the boys' event at an intermediate stage.

Winners of this year's Merseyside Open were:— Singles: Men—J. Clayton; Women—P. Morton; Boys—M. Billington; Girls—D. Fitzgerald. Doubles: Men—T. Densham and L. Landry; Women—P. Mortimer and Mrs. Griffiths; Mixed: T. Densham and P. Mortimer.

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## Juniors get their opportunity

(by J. McCAIG)

**B**Y defeating Warrington Juniors recently by seven sets to three, the Junior 1st team took a big stride towards winning the Junior Division for the second time in three years.

Nothing is so uncertain sometimes as the outcome of matches, and with five more still to be won, it would appear silly to forecast a clean sweep for our youngsters. Nevertheless, with a team as strong as the Liverpool team this season, it is a good bet just the same, and I for one will be very disappointed if the lads fail to take full advantage of their present strong position.

In John Ball, Robert Eden and Roy Smith, the League has three players who could very well aspire to greater things when the time comes for them to take their chance with older players in the League. It would be a good thing if at least one of them could claim a place in one of our senior teams. The chance will be there next season as, in addition to Ball and Smith, young Reg Gray will also be over age so far as the Juniors are concerned.

However, that is the future, and it remains to be seen whether the lads can crown their respective achievements as junior players, with a winner's trophy in the Junior Division of the Lancashire and Cheshire League. Meanwhile, our second string of Juniors keenly encouraged by Joe Ellison, as indeed is the 1st team by Alec Gould, recorded a ten to nil win over a weak Widnes team, making their record—won one and lost one.

### Ladies again in trouble

I am afraid the best we can say about our Ladies efforts is that they do at least enjoy their matches despite heavy defeats by Stockport and Manchester twice, once in the Rose Bowl Competition and the other in the League.

I am, of course, referring to our 1st team, who have once again arrived at the stage when they must beat the Wirral team to stay put

in Division 1. Their other remaining match is against Blackpool who, although defeated by our girls last season, usually get the better of the encounter.

The Ladies 'A' Team have not played since my last notes, and remain two points to the good for their defeat of Oldham.

### Men in the same boat

Our 1st team always seem to have their toughest fixtures at the start of the campaign, which does not help people like Arthur Taylor and Norman Jones who obviously must have time to acclimatise themselves to the greater speed of players like Ingber and Schofield.

Opposition as strong as this is seldom found in our own League with the result that matches against teams such as Manchester and Stockport are usually lost.

This season was no exception, although Taylor did collect the scalp of Derek Schofield, as indeed he has done before and also defeated Templemore in our defeat by eight sets to two.

For the match against Burnley at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. on December 16th, Gunnion replaced Ferguson in the senior team, after a very successful season so far. Both these young players have performed remarkably well this term, and the choice of third place in the senior team has, of course, been rather difficult.

### Another clean sweep?

The 'A' team will, unless I am a very poor judge, run away with Division 2 West. Having defeated Wirral and Southport for the loss of just one set, I can see no other team in their division being a serious rival. Vic Chesham, David Ferguson, Ralph Gunnion and Les Mulholland have so far done duty for the team, and I feel that any three of these four are quite capable of carrying off the honours once again. Time will tell.

## CONTROL THE SECRET

**I**N the last issue I mentioned that to be a successful table tennis player, one must have perfect control of the ball. The player who can keep the ball on the table the longest time in spite of every effort of his opponent is the eventual winner.

There are certain attributes such a player must have—he must be physically fit, he must possess good footwork, have plenty of patience, an even temperament, a good tactical brain, a solid defence and the ability to put away a winning shot when it arises.

Without good footwork, a player can never be in the right spot and in the correct position to produce the shot required. Let this be our first point towards "controlling" the ball.

### The "Push Shot"

Now, how can we keep the ball going across the table?

This is the second essential of "control": let me introduce you to the "push shot"—a shot played over the surface of the table. It is primarily played on the backhand with the bat face inclined backwards to strike the ball from behind and underneath, thus imparting chop or back spin on the ball. The body is turned slightly left with right shoulder towards the table, right foot just under the table towards the bounce of the ball and the left foot behind and slightly left. Footwork is a kind of rock from left foot to right foot, the right foot finding a different position towards each bounce of the ball, weight being transferred to the front foot when making contact with the ball. The arm action with the bat is a rhythmic swing from the shoulder, from in front of the body downwards and forwards into the ball.

The bat, and forearm to the elbow, should be parallel to the net on impact; this is important as it brings the bat in contact with the ball in the correct position for the follow through.

The ball is struck from behind and underneath as it loses height

from the bounce and is returned by a swinging, lifting, action across the net. The "push shot" should be practiced against someone playing the same shot until you can both do it endlessly.

Remember the stroke is played over the surface of the table, with the bat following through the ball towards the net imparting back spin.

It is the foundation stone of table tennis for the same stroke can be produced away from the table to combat a shot played against you with more vigour. The backhand defensive stroke is produced in the same way as the "push shot" but is played behind the table in order to give you more time to see the ball and effectively return it from a harder attacking stroke.

The arm swing is slower and longer, thus taking the speed off the ball and returning it "floating" in the air.

The forehand defensive shot is produced in the same way, with the body turned to the right with right foot back taking the weight of the stroke. The arm action is that of embracing the ball, striking it late when level with the body, the bat moving forward to chop the ball underneath with a long following through action lifting the ball to the far side of the table.

### A good defence pays off

To have a good defensive game should be the prime object of all young aspirants—it is the basis of building up an all-round game.

Very few players can hold their own in top class table tennis by virtue of a "one shot" technique. It is the good all-rounder who gets to the top and stays there and more often than not relies on the basic defensive shots, to which you have been introduced in this article, for the opportunity to work his opponents into a position from which the winning shot can be made.

Do take my advice and pay lots of attention to your defensive game before going on to attacking strokes which will be the subject of my next Coaching lesson.

*From the Secretary's Desk*

## LEAGUE COACHING SCHEME

(by John McKim)

**T**HE League Coaching Scheme, details of which were presented at the Annual General Meeting, is now actually in operation and in response to the Editor's request for more information regarding the working of the Management Committee, I set out hereunder details of the scheme which has been evolved and how players were selected to take part.

Arrangements were made with Mr. Fred Bamford for 24 Coaching sessions to be held on Saturday afternoons between the hours of 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Ten young players have been selected to attend the course of whom the maximum at any one session will total six. In thus restricting the attendance to only half a dozen, it means that each member will attend a minimum of 11 Coaching Sessions.

It may not seem a lot to coach only 10 players but it was the advice of the Coach that six was the most satisfactory number for attendance at each session to provide for the maximum personal attention from Mr. Bamford.

As you can well imagine, the choice of players was a most difficult task. Some names came to mind right away as suitable candidates for consideration—members of the City Junior Teams in the Lancashire and Cheshire League and other outstanding youngsters under 21 years of age. Unfortunately it is quite impracticable for the members of the Management Committee to see all the promising young players in the League so once again, as so often in the past, we had to fall back on the Club Secretary.

A letter was sent to all Club Secretaries asking them to let me have within a certain time, a list of the names and addresses of any players in their Club who were under 21 and whom they thought would be suitable to take part in the Scheme.

Seven Clubs made recommendations and a questionnaire was duly despatched to each person named.

20 forms were completed and returned to me and all were invited to the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. to meet members of the Management Committee. They were also invited to bring their parents along with them as the Committee were anxious that they (the parents) should be fully aware of the scope and extent of the scheme and to ascertain whether or not they would be willing to let their son or daughter spend the necessary time practising.

I have gone into some detail regarding the arrangements which were made, so that no member can feel that he or she did not have an equal chance of qualifying for coaching. If you did not receive a questionnaire, please look to your Club Secretary and not to the Management Committee.

Of the twenty players interviewed, 10 were selected to take part in the scheme and it is hoped that at a later date, it might prove possible to run a further coaching scheme for those who had to be left out on this occasion.

The players taking part have been asked to pay a fee equivalent to 1/- per session which although it does not represent anything like the full cost of the course (which will be borne out of the League Funds) it was nevertheless felt that a small contribution of this nature would be an earnest of the interest and enthusiasm of those taking part.

In concluding these Notes from the Secretary's Desk, I would like to draw your attention to the Lancashire v Gloucestershire County Match which is taking place at Lewis's Club Room in Litherland on Saturday, 18th February, 1961. Please make a note of this event in your diary NOW—particularly those from the North End of the City—a good attendance could mean the possibility of further representative matches for this City.

# CANDID COMMENTS

by The Editor

**I**N our first Editorial, we had this to say—"In matters of policy, the Table Tennis Digest stands four square for an improvement in Liverpool table tennis by whatever means may be necessary". A depressing feature of the extended Divisional Notes which appear in this issue is the constantly recurring theme—from the first division to the eighth—of teams failing to turn up or alternatively playing short.

Did one ever come across a bigger farce than Ken Jones's "The Match That Never Was". For a first division match to result in an 8-2 victory for one side with only two sets actually played, can only be worthy of the highest condemnation.

It has also come to our ears that a certain club secretary has in his possession signed post cards from every club secretary in his Division acknowledging receipt of a notification of change of match night, despite which opponents have failed to materialise for the last five home matches.

Much the same story is repeated in practically every division of the League.

Small wonder, therefore, that Liverpool table tennis is in its present sorry state in comparison with pre-war greatness.

In our opinion the onus for this state of affairs can lie only with the Management Committee. If one defines "management" as the proper organisation of varying activities and admits that the first duty of management is to manage, one can hardly see how the Management Committee can fulfil both these functions without taking a stand here and now on this subject of non-arrival of teams for matches, and persistent "playing short".

In our opinion there can be only one solution, namely that the Management Committee let it be known **NOW** that offences of this nature will be noted and taken into

consideration at the appropriate time before next season, when clubs apply for registration with the League. That is but the first step; the next is to ensure that persistent offenders are not re-admitted for next season. This might possibly mean a reduction in the numbers of registered players and clubs but we strongly suggest that this fact should not be allowed to obscure the plain duty of the Management Committee to ensure that those who play the game in the full spirit of the rules are not subjected to lack of consideration and discourtesy by others less well-intentioned. Management Committee—the ball is in your court.

## AROUND THE CLUBS

This was a feature which we introduced in our first issue and which we hoped to maintain throughout the season. It is regrettable to have to report that after one brief appearance it has died from what, no doubt an inquest would term, "natural causes". This is a pity because as Brian Leeson says in his Divisional notes, there is plenty of gossip in and around the Club Rooms which is worthy of wider circulation. Personally, we would like to re-introduce the topic but can only do so if matter for publication is received from YOU.

Whilst on this subject, we would take up a point made in a letter to the Editor by N. Cooke, of Bath Street.

The production of a magazine such as Table Tennis Digest is of course a continuing affair and copy for publication is acceptable at any time. For the information of Special Correspondents and/or casual contributors the last dates for receipt of matter for publication for the remainder of this season are—4th February, 4th March and 15th April. This last date is to allow the Digest to give coverage to the Closed Finals.

# AROUND THE

(by our Special C

	Division 1						
	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour . . .	13	12	1	0	93	37	24
Bootle Y.M. . .	14	10	2	2	90	50	22
Rafters . . .	14	10	3	1	93	47	21
L'pl Y.M. . .	14	9	3	2	87	53	20
Bohs . . .	13	7	2	4	76	54	18
Anfield . . .	14	6	4	4	77	63	16
Oakhill . . .	14	6	6	2	66	74	14
Linnets . . .	13	5	5	3	67	63	13
L'pl Y.M. A . .	13	3	7	3	60	70	9
Vic. Park . . .	13	4	8	1	56	74	9
Bath St. . .	14	2	8	4	58	82	8
Vic. Pk. A . .	13	4	9	0	53	77	8
Litherland . .	13	2	9	2	41	89	6
W'loo Pk . . .	13	0	13	0	23	107	0

**"THE Man that Never Was"**  
 was a great piece of screen entertainment.

The Match that never was, unhappily, was neither entertainment nor a sporting event.

What a poor reflection on the League's premier division when two of its teams—Anfield and Linnets—can meet and reach an 8-2 result with only two events being played. That this result will have repercussions of one sort or another in the Linnets Club is certain, as it was the the Linnets captain, Roy Jones, who insisted upon Anfield claiming his team's sets when his players had not arrived by 8 p.m.—just as last season he had claimed the set of a late Anfield arrival. This time, however, it was not simply one set that was forfeited. It was eight—Anfield claiming six and Linnets two. Matches will soon become a farce if players are not sufficiently interested to arrive on time.

The 1960-61 season is settling down into the pattern seen so often in the past—that of one team striding ahead of all challengers. Once again it is Balfour's first team who have taken the lead with Rafters and Bootle Y.M.C.A. as their nearest rivals.

With Balfour and Rafters doing so well in the League, the top averages for the first part of the season naturally include players from both. Sharing top spot with 93.7% are Les Davies (Balfour) and Arthur Jones (Rafters).

	Division 2						
	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
W'loo Dk . . .	14	11	1	2	103	37	24
Beauclair . . .	14	10	3	1	93	47	21
Rafters A . . .	13	9	2	2	79	51	20
Btle Y.M. A . .	14	9	3	2	80	60	20
Vic. Pk B . . .	14	8	3	3	80	60	19
Balfour A . . .	13	8	4	1	79	51	17
Bohs A . . .	14	7	5	2	85	55	16
R.A.F.A. . . .	13	7	4	2	70	60	16
Bath St. A . .	14	4	9	1	58	82	9
Oakhill A . . .	14	4	9	1	53	87	9
Lthrlnd A . . .	14	2	9	3	44	96	7
Cadwa . . .	14	2	10	2	47	93	6
Anfield A . . .	13	2	10	1	41	89	5
Lucem . . .	14	1	12	1	48	92	3

**B**Y their win over Waterloo Dock, Victoria Park 'B' have put themselves right in the running for the championship of the division, with Beauclair sitting on their heels waiting for a slip from either of the two leaders. How it will prove in the end is far too difficult to forecast, but should Victoria Park gain promotion, it might well put them in the embarrassing position of having their second string in the 1st Division and their first team in the 2nd Division should the latter be relegated, as well they might.

At the other end, Lucem are so unperturbed at their lowly position that they conceded a 9-1 walkover to Beauclair, walking out after the one set played (won by Lucem's Ken Davies). It is a peculiar situation when the wooden spoonists walk out at such an early stage, but shows great confidence that they can get out of the danger zone before it is too late.

Cadwa have not improved their position, and seem to find the present company heavy going, but there is a lot of time to make up the leeway, and Anfield 'A' are certainly not out of the wood by a long chalk.

The only 100% record is held by Jack Seddon, of Waterloo Dock, though there are several with either only one or two losses. One player worthy of note is J. Higham, of Oakhill 'A', who lost three of his first four sets, but from then on has won two a match with monotonous regularity.



# THE DIVISIONS

## Correspondents

### Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
University	13	9	1	3	78	52	23
Fairlawn	14	10	3	1	97	43	21
Btle YM B	14	10	4	0	83	57	20
L.P.A.S.	13	8	2	3	79	51	19
Balfour B	14	8	4	2	83	57	18
Rafters B	13	5	3	5	71	59	15
Linnets A	12	7	4	1	67	53	15
Linacre	14	5	6	3	78	62	13
L'pl YM B	14	4	8	2	66	74	10
Cadwa A	13	3	6	4	51	79	10
Eng. Elec	14	4	7	3	61	79	11
Har. Hse	12	2	6	4	51	69	8
Vic. Pk C	11	1	9	1	29	81	3
W'loo Pk A	13	0	13	0	26	104	0

**B**OTH Waterloo Park 'A' and Victoria Park 'C' look as though they are in for a tough time this season. It is significant that neither team has been able to play a regular five, which must be very unsettling for the players. Waterloo Park have in fact utilised 14 players in their first 12 matches, while Victoria Park have used 18 over the same period.

University appear to be the team to watch in this division, and if they can retain an unaltered team, they must have an excellent chance of promotion. The line up of Snyder, Rosenbloom, Crossley, Prosser and Rodway will not easily be overcome.

L.P.A.S. have made a good start to the season, and in spite of an unfortunate reversal at Fairlawn, seem to be strong enough to hold their own with any team. Their team of Gauld, Hough, Moneyppenny, Bracewell and Heague has already drawn with the University at Anfield Road. In this match, only one event went to three games, when Gauld beat Rosenbloom 26-24, 19-21, 23-21. Just how close can you get?

Several Clubs can be relied on to make a determined bid to win one of the two promotion places. Three teams come to mind at the moment. Bootle Y.M. 'B', L.P.A.S. and, dare I mention it, my own Club—Fairlawn. I hear that the Linnets team is likely to be strengthened, so their chances of a move upwards are increased accordingly.

### Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Sefton Gen.	13	12	0	1	98	32	25
Lussac	12	10	1	1	74	46	21
Bohs B	14	9	4	1	89	51	19
Vic. Pk D	13	9	3	1	80	50	19
W'loo Dk A	14	7	4	3	79	61	17
L.P.A.S. A	13	6	5	2	66	64	14
Linnets B	13	6	6	1	69	61	13
Anfield B	14	5	7	2	71	69	12
Bath St. B	14	5	9	0	59	81	10
Oakhill B	14	3	8	3	58	82	9
Lthrlnd B	12	3	7	2	52	68	8
Cadwa B	12	3	8	1	52	68	7
Balfour C	12	2	9	1	37	83	5
Btle YM C	13	1	11	1	30	100	3

**I**T seems fairly clear that Sefton are running away with the 4th Division, and there does not appear to be a team who will prevent Lussac from being runners-up, but there is a long way to go yet and with a little strengthening either or both of them may well be shifted from the top.

Victoria Park 'D' with one player stronger could well do a lot of damage, and now that Linnets 'B' have strengthened their line-up they may cause a few shocks, but they have lost too much ground early on to think about promotion this season.

At the other end of the table, Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'C' and Balfour 'C' seem doomed to the "drop" but anyone who has been to Bootle has seen the strings of enthusiastic youngsters on the practice tables, and Mr. Watson may slip some of these in, to the confusion of many opponents.

Balfour 'C' will be in real trouble unless they can get their full team out every week. They might easily have won more points had they not had to concede so many sets as walk-overs. It is strange to see Balfour in this position, and it is more than probable that they would not have been so placed but for their enforced change of headquarters.

The only 100% League record left to us is that of Derek Wildblood (Bohemians), but Bill Davis and Stan Wilkinson, of Sefton, each have 13 wins out of 14.

*Around the Divisions — continued*

	Division 5						
	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wav. Lab . . .	12	12	0	0	108	12	24
Wav. Bpt . . .	13	9	2	2	89	41	20
L'pool C.C. . .	11	9	1	1	85	25	19
Fairlawn A . .	12	8	4	0	78	42	16
Rafters C . . .	12	7	5	0	66	54	14
L'pool P.O. . .	11	6	4	1	58	52	13
Bohs C . . . .	13	5	7	1	57	73	11
Telecoms . . .	11	3	5	3	44	66	9
Nalگو . . . . .	11	4	6	1	47	63	9
Btle Nalگو . . .	10	3	5	2	47	53	8
Co-op . . . . .	12	2	8	2	41	79	6
W'loo Pk B . . .	11	0	10	1	12	98	1
Dom Miss . . .	11	0	11	0	18	92	0

**W**AVERTREE LABOUR continue to lead the way in the 5th Division, and the margin of their victories leave little doubt of their ability.

Liverpool Cricket Club are also progressing in convincing style, despite one or two setbacks. The only teams to stop their victorious march to date have been Wavertree Labour and Wavertree Baptist. Even so, it still looks as though this team might end the season as a promotion side. In Dick Burge, the Cricket Club have acquired a very steady No. 5 and although he has been out of the game for a few years, he is already making his presence felt. Welcome back Dick, it's nice to see you playing again.

The letter from Wavertree Baptist, in the last issue of the *Digest* has given us something to think and talk about.

For the benefit of the people who think the Baptists were making idle threats, let me hasten to inform you that this is not so. Already they have claimed the games of many latecomers.

Some players seem to be of the opinion that Rule 23 was made for the benefit of bad sports, and clubs who haven't the ability to win their games any other way. Well, I've known Baptists for some years now and a better group of sportsmen I have yet to meet. As for their ability?—Let their record speak for itself.

Personally I applaud the stand they have taken—it's about time someone started getting some sanity on this subject.

	Division 6						
	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wv. Lab A . . .	13	13	0	0	115	15	26
St. Ed. OB . . .	12	11	0	1	94	26	23
Fairlawn B . . .	13	8	3	2	77	53	18
Crawfords . . .	12	7	2	3	75	45	17
L'pl YM C. . . .	13	6	2	5	78	52	17
Beauclair A . . .	13	8	4	1	89	41	17
L.P.A.S. B . . .	14	4	5	5	59	81	13
Unvrsty A . . .	11	4	5	2	53	57	10
Bath St. C . . .	14	3	8	3	60	80	9
Cadwa C . . . .	14	4	9	1	59	81	9
Stnly Hse . . . .	14	3	9	2	45	95	8
Beauclair B . . .	12	2	7	3	43	77	7
S. Ed OB A . . .	13	3	10	0	36	94	6
Anfield C . . . .	14	1	13	0	23	117	2

**W**HEN I found that I was to play in Division 6 this season, I hardly expected to find the opposition so tough. We have several teams that could acquit themselves well in a higher Division.

The Division can boast of some good stroke playing individuals like O'Keefe (St. Edward's Old Boys), Derek Brck (Bath Street), Charman (University) and the two young Cadwa players, Myers and McPherson.

The last two are products of the Cadwa Club's coaching class, and proves how much more quickly a youngster will develop with advice and encouragement from experienced players.

It would seem that Wavertree Labour 'A' intend to let nothing stop them from being Divisional champions, judging by the margin of some of their victories over other well-fancied teams. They are capable of putting up a new record in sets averages. Who goes up with them will prove to be quite an interesting battle, as the teams immediately behind Wavertree seem to be cutting each other up.

The Hyde Cup will, we hope, be won by a Division 6 team this year, and if you ask any of the Y.M.C.A. team, the present holders, they will tell you they do not intend to let go without a fight.

We hope Sam Sturgeon (Beauclair) will soon be back in action with us, and wish him a speedy return to fitness after his recent operation.

### Division 7

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Crwfrds A .	13	12	1	0	100	30	24
Wav Lab A	14	12	2	0	89	51	24
L'pl C.C. A	12	11	1	0	92	28	21
Nalgo A .	14	9	4	1	86	54	19
Rafters D .	13	8	5	0	74	56	16
Btle YM D	14	7	6	1	66	74	15
Eng. Elec A	13	6	6	1	71	59	13
Eng. Elec B	13	5	5	3	69	61	13
Fairlawn C	13	6	7	0	65	65	12
Linnets C .	12	4	7	1	50	70	9
Tech. Studs	13	3	8	2	50	80	8
Oakhill C .	13	2	11	0	36	94	4
Lewis's . . .	13	1	11	1	47	83	3
Crawfords A	14	1	13	0	25	115	2

**W**E have now arrived at the half-way stage of the season and the lead in Division 7 is still held jointly by Liverpool Cricket Club 'A' and Crawfords 'A', both teams having lost one match each.

Wavertree Labour 'B' are still keeping close on their heels being themselves followed by Nalgo 'A' and Rafters 'D'.

These seem to be the only teams who still have any chance of overtaking the leaders.

It seems likely that the eventual winners of this division will be decided in the final match of the season when Crawfords 'A' visit the Cricket Club.

Down at the bottom of the table we have Crawfords 'B', Lewis's and Oakhill 'C'. It will be a fight between these three to avoid relegation. The rest of the teams do not seem to have any worries about promotion or relegation.

Main contributions to the Cricket Club have come from E. Hand, R. Dean and G. Taylor, while at Crawfords we have A. V. Widdowson, A. Thatcher and R. Conley. For Wavertree Labour, L. Hogg and J. Brannagan are playing very well.

Linnets have won their last three home matches by 10-0 walkovers due to the other teams failing to turn up. While this helps to put them higher up the division, they would sooner play the matches, win or lose. However, they are not going to the trouble of re-arranging these matches if the other teams cannot be bothered to turn up.

### Division 8

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Brenka . . .	11	11	0	0	92	8	22
Brenka A .	11	9	2	0	74	36	18
Unvrsity B	11	8	1	2	70	40	18
Colonsay .	12	5	4	3	66	54	13
Lthrland C	10	6	4	0	50	50	12
W'll Pk C .	11	3	4	4	43	67	10
L'pl CC B .	12	4	7	1	53	67	9
Wav. Lab C	11	3	6	2	47	63	8
Har. Hse A	8	2	4	2	28	52	6
Sefton A . .	9	2	7	1	29	71	5
Lthrland D	3	2	0	1	19	11	5
L.Y.C.A. . .	11	1	8	1	43	67	4
Linnets D .	11	1	10	0	34	76	2

Note: Lewis's A record expunged

**B**RENKA have already shown that this division is well tied up, though there is quite a dog fight going on for second place, involving five teams, one of which is the Brenka second string. Quite obviously this is a club which could have more than held their own higher up the League.

University 'B' are doing very well, and to date are the only team to take more than the odd set from Brenka (result 7-3) but when teams are as close as this there is usually a goodish bit of throat-cutting going on between each other, making a prediction impossible, and arousing general interest.

At the other end of the scale we find Linnets 'D' without a point, and, since there can be no relegation, without cares also. A happy band, composed mainly of young, new players gaining experience for the future, they are just about feeling their feet, and are quite sure that they will get a few victories before the end of this session. Companions in this misfortune are Lewis's 'A'.

Liverpool C.C. 'B' have some strong players, and might well have shown higher in this table, but they tell me that they have a great number of players on the books, and try to give everyone a game rather than field the strongest five to the exclusion of all the others, which seems fair enough. Maureen King has played most weeks, and is greatly improved, but if her first team colleagues would get her feet moving better, she would be a very much stronger player again.

# Women's Notes

(by Eileen Mansell)

## Journey's End

ONCE again, Liverpool Ladies 1st team suffered annihilation in the Rose Bowl Competition, Manchester again "putting paid" to any hopes we might of had of progressing further than the first round.

Unfortunately, our team, comprising M. Jones, J. Randell and M. Willcox was very much below form and whilst not wishing to take away any credit from the Manchester team, I must say I have never seen our girls play so badly. Moya did rally herself in her second singles match against Mary Leigh—Lancashire's No. 1—whom she defeated in the best three games of the match. She managed to get into her stride and played some very fine table tennis, but, this set apart, all the other games were very one-sided. It was just one of those things which happens to us all sometime or other, and is best forgotten.

In the same week the team travelled to Manchester for the second time, on this occasion to play in a League match. Though the result was 9-1 against us, the match itself bore no resemblance to the previous one. All three players were determined to put up a much better show than previously and in nearly all the matches, the Mancunians were fully extended. Moya again won the only singles and only narrowly lost the other two. Joyce and Muriel both acquitted themselves well; Joyce had very hard luck in one match against Mary Leigh, losing 23-25 in the third game, whilst Muriel had a similar score against Winifred Swift. I am sure they came home feeling much better than on their first trip to Manchester.

Congratulations to Barbara Taylor on being chosen to play for Liverpool 'A' against Urmston—her first inter-city match—I am sure it will not be her last.

## Women's Division

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Rafters . . .	14	13	1	0	102	38	26
Bohs . . .	13	11	0	2	109	21	24
Cadwa . . .	12	10	1	1	95	25	21
Oakhill . . .	12	7	2	3	80	40	17
Linnets . . .	13	7	4	2	79	51	16
Bath St. . .	12	7	4	1	76	44	15
Wav. Lab. . .	12	7	4	1	71	49	15
Orrell . . .	12	5	5	2	67	53	12
Bibbys . . .	12	4	6	2	54	66	10
Cadwa A . .	12	5	7	0	54	66	10
Bohs A . .	13	3	10	0	45	85	6
Hntly & P .	11	2	9	0	33	77	4
W'loo Pk . .	13	2	11	0	31	99	4
Rafters A .	11	1	10	0	12	98	2
Btle Nalگو .	11	0	11	0	4	96	0

There is very little to choose between the top four Clubs and the second half of the season should hold a great deal of interest for everybody.

Boh's could well snatch the lead away from Cadwa and Rafters—they seem to be steadily gaining ground. Oakhill and Linnets are also close on the trail so it will certainly be a neck and neck race to the end.

Still trailing near the bottom are L.P.A.S. and Bootle Nalگو. Consequent upon the amalgamation of the first and second divisions, there will be no demotion for them so they can still live to see another day. I hope losing consistently will not demoralise them too much, for as long as they get some pleasure out of the game, it is well worth the effort.

Mention must be made of Amy Bell, of Wavertree Labour, who has been playing very steadily all through the season and must be somewhere near the top of the averages. Another improved player is Muriel Cox, also of Wavertree Labour, who seems to have regained her confidence and with it the ability to win sets which previously she might have lost. Muriel had the makings of a very good player whose nerves were her biggest bogey—alas they seem to play havoc with a lot of table tennis players—I wonder why!!!

## Women's Notes continued

The outstanding match of the last few weeks was that in which Rafter's trounced Cadwa 7-3 when all but two of the matches were won in straight sets so that it could hardly be called a "touch and go" affair. This was a real turn-up for the books and it will be very interesting to see how they fare in the semi-final of the Bartholomew Cup. Will Cadwa be demoralised by this defeat or will it make them all the more determined to turn the tables? Whatever happens it should be a very interesting match.

### WELCOME RETURN

Since the last *Digest* I am pleased to record that Andree Jones has been tempted to take up her bat once more; whether or not she wishes to take part in inter-city matches, if chosen, is something about which I am not sure but I am very pleased to see that she has come back into the game. As we all know, she was a very good all-round player and was quite outstanding after the war. She has signed on for Anfield so will not be playing in the Women's Division but, we hope, participating in our tournaments.

Joyce Randall is another welcome recruit to the Women's Division, having signed on for Cadwa for whom she will be quite an acquisition. I am not sure which team she will be playing in, but would imagine it to be the 'A' team, as Pat Brackley has withdrawn for the rest of the season.

On the debit side we have lost Gloria Burns who has dropped out for family reasons but is hoping to return to the game next season. She is possibly one of the keenest lady players in the League and wild horses won't keep her out of it.

It is good to see Lil Jenkins back with us after her sojourn in Sierra Leone, and Orrell must be delighted to have her back in the side once more.

Pauline Lawrenson, of Cadwa, has been putting in some practice—she missed the first part of the season for a very good reason (a new arrival) but has organised her sitters-in and is rarin' to go again—it is amazing how the enthusiasm soon comes back.

### BARTHOLOMEW CUP

As is already mentioned, Rafter's play Cadwa in one semi-final whilst in the other, Orrell play Boh's.

Cup matches are not always easy to predict but the odds are possibly on Bohemians who have both Moya Jones and Muriel Willcox in their team.

Nerves always seem to play a big part in Cup matches so anything is liable to happen. It could well be that Boh's could snatch both the Cup and the League away from Cadwa or Rafter's.

As the season progresses the battle for the top of the League gets keener, which is all to the good—I would not hazard a guess at the outcome.

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# ON THE CUP TRAIL

## READMAN CUP

**T**HE first round of the Readman Cup held few surprises, in fact only one match was close enough for comment, Bath Street v Anfield. At Bath Street, Anfield forced a draw, the highlight being Alan Lawson's win over Arthur Taylor, but in the return, Anfield won 6-4 despite Taylor reversing his set against Lawson, and Ted Barnes conceding two walk-overs. Who says that the home team has no advantage?

One feature of the opening round was the peculiar match between Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and Linnets. Arriving at Linnets without their No. 1, Bobby Owens, but with a more than adequate reserve in Harry Spiers, they were not displeased to hear that business was keeping Bill Pierce away. However, as time went by without either Don Hobbs or Mike Cooper appearing and Linnets captain, Eric Davies, putting two more reserves in, the Y.M. lads had very mixed feelings. While always being pleased to go into the next round 8-2, they would rather have had a good game and taken their chance against Linnets full strength. However, Don did finally arrive, straight from work, without his tea, **TWO DAYS LATER.** He had lost the letter telling him of the date, and thought it was Thursday instead of Tuesday.

The difference in strength between the 1st and 2nd Division has been clearly shown by the results Waterloo Dock 1, Bootle Y.M.C.A. 9, and Beauclair 2, Balfour 8, the home teams being in the lead in Division 2.

## RUMJAHN CUP

**T**HE Rumjahn Cup has already provided several shock results, not least among which was the defeat of Fairlawn by Wavertree Labour in the second round. After

defeating the leaders of Division 4, Sefton, by a comfortable score, Fairlawn took on the formidable Labour side, currently leading Division 5, and, in a closely contested match, Wavertree emerged winners by 6 sets to 4.

It would be dangerous to forecast that any team is certain to win the Cup, but I find it very difficult to name the team that will overcome this Wavertree side. The team of Hurworth, Farquharson, Moran, Chaloner and McEvoy seem strong enough to take on any team left in the competition.

Rafters 'B' at full strength might have provided strong opposition. In the preliminary round their team, which included reserve players, beat English Electric, while in round one, they recorded a comfortable win over Bath Street 'B' by eight sets to two. It must be noted, however, that six games went to deuce, five going in favour of Rafters.

In the second round Rafters drew with Liverpool Y.M. 'B'.

In the replay at the Y.M., Rafters were defeated 8-2. The Y.M. team now meet Wavertree Labour in the next round.

Liverpool C.C. had a good win at Balfour 'B' in their preliminary round match. Lewis, McKintosh and Tyler made the result safe with two wins each, but the Balfour side must have been very much surprised by their opponents from a lower division.

The Cricket Club continued their winning sequence in round 1, by defeating another third division side, Bootle Y.M. 'B', by 8-2 at Aigburth. In this match, Lewis, Tyler and Burge recorded double wins, while Whorton and Hunt won the two sets for Bootle.

The question, however, is, who is going to prevent Wavertree Labour from winning the Rumjahn Cup?

# The Financial Aspect of the "Open"

(by the League Treasurer, Don Cameron)

AS a Table Tennis Tournament, the Merseyside "Open" is undoubtedly a big success as reports elsewhere in this issue have shown. However, financially, it can not be considered very successful, although this year, by cutting down on expenses to invited players, we have kept our loss to a minimum. Here are the figures in round pounds for the sake of convenience:—

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	£		£
Entrance fees received ... ..	49	E.T.T.A. Fees paid ... ..	8
E.T.T.A. Fees received ... ..	8	Prizes ... ..	21
Taken at door—55 @ 2/-	5	Balls—4½ doz. ... ..	4
Profit allowed by Caterers ...	2	Printing entry forms etc. ...	10
Loss ... ..	7	Invited players' expenses (restricted to holders of Singles titles) ... ..	7
		Gratuities to members of Dunlop's staff for their assistance ... ..	8
		Refreshments to officials ...	6
		Cartage of tables ... ..	3
		Sundry items, including postage, insurance ... ..	4
	<u>£71</u>		<u>£71</u>

It should be noted that Dunlops provided free use of their canteen for the tournament, otherwise a very heavy loss would have been incurred.

It is regrettable that of the 55 spectators who paid at the door, the greater part came from outside Liverpool—if only 100 of our league members had given their support, we could have shown a profit and maybe provided bigger and better prizes to the winners.

## Everybody's Doing It

**T**HIS is the age of "give-away". Everybody's doing it; soap coupons, gift vouchers, the lot. The *Digest* moves with the times! With the February issue, there will be enclosed, free gratis and for nothing, a beautifully printed form—all you have to do is to fill it in and

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The long-awaited November issue of the *Digest* has at last revealed its contents to our fraternity, and in view of previous issues I pose the question—"Was it worth the wait".

News of the divisions at one time merited a full page for each division but in this issue only a few scrappy lines, apart from the 1st Division, are offered. I feel sure that all Division 3 players will appreciate the importance of the two scoops obtained by their contributor, and sub-titles for these which readily come to mind are "Police (w)ages up" and "Rafters due for trimming".

By contrast, Eileen Mansell seems to have put an appreciable amount of effort into her notes, which cover more space than all the men's divisions combined, as also has Jim Green, with whom I am surprised to find I am in agreement concerning club colours being registered with the League.

Surely an interesting and more lively magazine could easily be produced if each secretary would submit each month a few lines about his club (and other clubs or individuals who have pleased or displeased him) to the editor who could also play his part by publishing the last date a contribution will be accepted for inclusion in the next issue.

Yours faithfully,

N. Cooke,  
(Bath St. T.T.C.)

Dear Sir,

In the first edition of the Table Tennis Digest to be published under your guiding hand, I was shocked to be accused of playing with, as you state, "his old ebullience". As you should by now realise I am a strong opponent of any type of equipment designed to give its user an undue advantage. In any table tennis match, "Sandwiches" should be of Ham or Tongue and "Sponges" of the Swiss Roll or Jam type and reserved for the interval.

Yours sincerely,

A. Montgomery,  
(Rafters T.T.C.)

Dear Sir,

In three of the articles in your last issue mention is made of the poor standard of "turn out" (dress) for the league matches.

It is all very well for you and your contributors to preach in this vein but have you considered how many clubs have reasonable changing room facilities where both upper and lower garments can be removed and left in safety?

It is hardly hygienic to turn up, play in and go home in table tennis kit after a hard game. Have you considered how many clubs have shower facilities?

The more players that change into T.T. dress for matches, the more prevalent will the practice become in those that do not—but facilities MUST be provided.

To merely state the problem, as your magazine does, without considering the attendant difficulties, is not going to help much.

Yours truly,

Harold Cohen,  
(Liverpool Cricket Club)

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate our new editor on a very fine job. To my mind, the *Digest* has been revitalised and made far more interesting with its new type of articles (which should give use to a lot of controversy) and new set out of the league tables.

This issue I could not put down until it was finished completely, which I seldom did with the old. I only hope that the standard can be maintained.

Yours faithfully,

D. Cameron  
(Victoria Park)

Dear Sir,

The Management Committee is heartened to note that the new Editorial Board are maintaining the high standard of the publication and consider the revised ideas and layout a welcome innovation. They would like to congratulate the Editor and his Board and wish the *Digest* every success for the future.

Yours sincerely,

John McKim,  
Hon. Secretary