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**TABLE
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OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE *Digest* TENNIS

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J. C. McKim and J. D. Pattison

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No. 3

"DOC RUMMY"

THERE are nick names and nick names—some by their nature, though apt, are offensive whilst others somehow contrive to be not only affectionate but to convey the character and personality of the individual to whom it relates.

So it was in the case of Jaffir Rumjahn, M.D., whose sobriquet of "Doc Rummy" conveyed not only respect for his profession of Doctor of Medicine but a warmth of regard for the man whom we all admired and held in such high esteem.

His passing away on the 1st February, 1961 leaves those who knew and loved him, the poorer for his loss but the richer by the store of memories which he has left behind.

His Vice-Presidency of the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League, coupled with the office which he held of President of the Rafter's T.T.C., were only the outward and visible signs of the strong associations which he had with table tennis in this part of the country.

The list of his sporting achievements was formidable indeed, ranging over such diverse activities as table tennis, hockey, rugby football, lawn tennis, cricket and athletics but somehow we cannot escape the feeling that illustrious though his performances in these several directions might have been, he will nevertheless be remembered more for the manner of his performances rather than the honours which he achieved.

It is given to many to be above average competency in their various undertakings but, regretfully, comparatively few combine merit and ability with true sportsmanship. Too often the performance is marred by outbursts of temperament and gamesmanship.

In this respect, Doc Rummy was without reproach and the Liverpool League has been fortunate indeed to have over such a long period, a President and a Vice-President of the calibre of Mr. Bartholomew and Doctor Rumjahn, who, by personal example, brought home to each and every member, the precept of generosity in both victory and defeat.

It is perhaps fitting that this tribute to a man who served the Liverpool League so faithfully and well, should conclude on a note which would have given him considerable pleasure. It consists of an extract from a letter received by the Match Secretary, Mr. Jack McCaig, from Mr. H. Brindle, Chairman of the Bolton League, who says—" I feel I must mention the match played last evening between the senior teams of our Leagues. This was truly an object lesson of just how the inter-league matches ought to be played. Excellent sportsmanship by all concerned, some fine play and as usual when we play our friends from Liverpool, a most enjoyable evening was had by all. Will you please convey to Mr. Ted Rumjahn and the team, thanks from all their friends here in Bolton."

We are glad to give publicity to the sentiments expressed by the Chairman of the Bolton League. In the context in which they were written and now appear, further comment would be superfluous.

Question Box

Set by Don Cameron and John McKim

WE hope to set from time to time, questions to test your knowledge of local table tennis—the game nationally, and also to see how much you know of the rules of the game.

1. How many male international players has the Liverpool League supplied?
2. Who is the present Treasurer of the E.T.T.A., and why should you know him?
3. Can you sit on the table for the whole of the game?
4. Which Liverpool player alone, has gained a Junior International Cap?
5. Can you have a rest during a game?
6. Who is—
 - (a) The oldest player in the Liverpool League.
 - (b) The player who has been playing longest in the League?

(For answers see foot of page 16)

Ranking List

IN response to enquiries we set out hereunder the current E.T.T.A. national Ranking List.

MEN

1. I. Harrison and B. Merrett
3. J. Ingber
4. D. C. Burrige
5. A. Rhodes
6. S. Jacobson
7. J. Somogyi
8. P. Shead
9. A. Piddock
10. A. Lindsay
11. K. R. Craigie
12. H. Buist and L. Landry

WOMEN

1. Miss D. Rowe
2. Miss J. Harrower
3. Mrs. J. McCree
4. Miss P. Mortimer
5. Miss J. Fielder
6. Mrs. J. Mills
7. Mrs. E. Carrington
8. Miss M. Piper
9. Miss M. Fry
10. Miss S. Hession and Mrs. P. Clarke

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Survival for the Ladies?

(by J. McCAIG)

A VERY interesting situation has arisen so far as our Ladies' 1st team is concerned, and their position is very much in the balance. There are three contenders for relegation in the division, viz: ourselves, Wirral and Blackpool. As matters are right now, Liverpool has garnered two points from three games; Wirral have done likewise, and Blackpool have yet to win a point after what must be their poorest season for a long time. They have one match still to play and need I say who that is against? Yes! Liverpool. I feel that Wirral are unlikely to show a profit from their remaining match against Stockport, and with that sobering thought, it would appear to rest on the Liverpool v Blackpool encounter. The fact that Blackpool have requested a postponement, in view of one player being unavailable on the date the match is due to be played, suggests that they intend at least wresting one point from their match with us. The ultimate outcome is intriguing because ourselves and Wirral have near enough the same sets average, and if we lose to Blackpool, it will be a very close call indeed. However, time will tell.

Another trophy for the Ladies 'A'?

Once again our 'A' team is all set to carry off the Division 2 championship. The team of Mrs. Rimmer, Mrs. Lovelady and Mrs. Lawrenson is a very strong combination. The 'A' team fare rather better than the 1st team inasmuch as their fixtures are on a home and away basis, meaning that they play six fixtures instead of four. If only our senior teams were as strong as the respective second strings, Liverpool table tennis would be in a very healthy state.

Safe once again

The men's first team have virtually made themselves safe from any danger of relegation. A draw with Burnley at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and a win by 9 sets to 1 against

Blackpool has changed the picture very quickly. Without being able to set the world on fire, we as a League are still able to hold our own amongst the best players in Lancashire and Cheshire.

One more obstacle

As far as the men's 'A' team is concerned, they are, like the ladies' 'A' chasing a championship for the second season running. Having a sets average of 43 against 7 for a maximum number of points, one would think the whole thing all over bar the shouting. However, I am given to thinking that a dark horse is still around, in the shape of Chester. They are going extremely well right now, and have a sets average not much different to our own. It is a most interesting state of affairs, and good for the game of course. The matter will doubtless be settled when our 'A' team meet Chester on March 3rd, I hope at Messrs. Bibby's, for the last match of the season.

More success

Meanwhile our juniors continue their victory march and have now maximum points from five matches. A practically unchanged team of Smith, Ball and Eden has proved rather too much for other junior sides in Lancashire, even for Bolton, who suffered their first defeat in two seasons at Bootle Y.M.C.A. With Aston and Stockport yet to play, it would seem a near certainty that this will be our Juniors' year.

The juniors 'A' team is also having a good season, their only defeat in four games being to our own 1st team. One point that will be of interest to all junior players I am sure, is the fact that three at least of the six regular players this season will be over age next term, which means there will be places to fill. There is surely incentive now for all junior players to raise the standard of their play, particularly those currently undergoing coaching.

LEADING AVERAGES

NOTE—Whilst every care is taken in the compilation of these records no responsibility can be accepted for any errors which may occur.

* Denotes 75% or more sets played at Nos. 1 or 2.

| DIVISION 1 | P | W | % |
|-----------------------------|----|----|-------|
| V. Chesham (Bohemians) | 34 | 31 | 91.17 |
| *N. R. Jones (Balfour) | 28 | 25 | 89.28 |
| *A. C. Taylor (Bath Street) | 28 | 25 | 89.28 |
| R. Harrison (Rafters) | 28 | 24 | 85.71 |
| L. Davies (Balfour) | 32 | 27 | 84.37 |
| A. Jones (Rafters) | 26 | 22 | 84.30 |
| *R. E. Gunnion (Btle YM) | 36 | 31 | 83.88 |
| *N. R. Jones (Linnets) | 32 | 26 | 81.25 |
| *D. Ferguson (Rafters) | 34 | 26 | 76.47 |
| *W. Allanson (Bootle YM) | 28 | 21 | 75.00 |
| I. Rogerson (Bootle YM) | 36 | 27 | 75.00 |
| H. Wilcock (Balfour) | 28 | 21 | 75.00 |

| DIVISION 2 | P | W | % |
|----------------------------|----|----|-------|
| J. C. Seddon (Waterloo Dk) | 34 | 30 | 88.23 |
| A. Byrne (Waterloo Dock) | 34 | 28 | 82.35 |
| *M. Truman (Vic Park B) | 32 | 26 | 81.25 |
| J. Higham (Oakhill A) | 32 | 25 | 78.12 |
| J. Robinson (R.A.F.A.) | 32 | 24 | 75.00 |
| *D. Rigby (Beauchair) | 34 | 25 | 73.52 |
| *K. Chambers (Balfour A) | 30 | 22 | 73.33 |
| E. Jones (Balfour A) | 32 | 23 | 71.18 |
| *L. T. Sille (Waterloo Dk) | 32 | 23 | 71.18 |
| *K. Wright (Beauchair) | 34 | 24 | 70.58 |

| DIVISION 3 | P | W | % |
|---------------------------|----|----|-------|
| *R. Eden (Cadwa A) | 26 | 22 | 84.61 |
| D. Rodway (University) | 28 | 23 | 82.14 |
| J. Moneypenny (L.P.A.S.) | 30 | 24 | 80.00 |
| A. Heague (L.P.A.S.) | 32 | 25 | 78.12 |
| F. Lacey (Linacre) | 32 | 25 | 78.12 |
| *J. Brackley (Linnets A) | 22 | 17 | 77.27 |
| L. Carter (Fairlaw) | 34 | 26 | 76.47 |
| *R. Hough (L.P.A.S.) | 30 | 22 | 73.33 |
| *A. Roberts (L'pool YM B) | 36 | 26 | 72.22 |
| *J. R. Green (Linnets A) | 32 | 23 | 71.87 |
| *E. Caird (Rafters B) | 32 | 23 | 71.87 |
| A. Campbell (Bootle YM B) | 30 | 21 | 70.00 |

| DIVISION 4 | P | W | % |
|-----------------------------|----|----|-------|
| *D. Wildblood (Bohs B) | 24 | 23 | 95.83 |
| *L. F. Kilshaw (Wloo Dk A) | 26 | 23 | 88.46 |
| S. Wilkinson (Sefton) | 32 | 28 | 87.50 |
| W. Leeming (Lussac) | 32 | 27 | 84.37 |
| A. Watson (Sefton) | 32 | 27 | 84.37 |
| *D. Cohen (Victoria Pk C) | 30 | 25 | 83.33 |
| J. Mangnall (Victoria Pk C) | 32 | 26 | 81.25 |
| *K. Jones (Linnets B) | 20 | 15 | 75.00 |
| *R. Davis (Sefton) | 30 | 22 | 73.33 |
| *G. Kettle (Sefton) | 32 | 23 | 71.87 |

| DIVISION 5 | P | W | % |
|----------------------------|----|----|-------|
| N. Challoner (Wav Lab) | 34 | 33 | 97.05 |
| *P. Hurworth (Wav Lab) | 32 | 31 | 96.87 |
| E. Moran (Wav Lab) | 32 | 28 | 87.50 |
| *L. Lewis (Liverpool C.C.) | 30 | 26 | 86.66 |
| *N. Tudor (Bootle Nalg) | 28 | 17 | 85.00 |
| D. Inge (Wavertree Bap) | 28 | 23 | 82.14 |
| *A. McIntosh (Lpool C.C.) | 26 | 21 | 80.76 |
| *F. Farquharson (Wav Lab) | 36 | 28 | 77.77 |
| *W. Shiel (Liverpool P.O.) | 30 | 23 | 76.66 |
| R. Tyler (Liverpool C.C.) | 30 | 22 | 73.33 |
| R. McEvoy (Wav. Lab.) | 24 | 17 | 70.83 |

| DIVISION 6 | P | W | % |
|----------------------------|----|----|--------|
| J. Brannagan (Wav Lab A) | 22 | 22 | 100.00 |
| *P. Byrne (Wav. Lab. A) | 34 | 32 | 94.11 |
| *G. O'Keefe (St. Edwards) | 26 | 24 | 92.30 |
| *T. Owens (Wav. Lab. A) | 38 | 35 | 92.10 |
| *D. Buck (Bath St. C) | 20 | 18 | 90.00 |
| R. Thomas (Wav. Lab. A) | 36 | 30 | 83.33 |
| P. Kelly (St. Edwards) | 26 | 21 | 80.76 |
| C. Hoare (Crawfords) | 30 | 24 | 80.00 |
| B. Willcox (Wav Lab A) | 28 | 22 | 78.57 |
| *R. Myers (Cadwa C) | 32 | 25 | 78.12 |
| *T. C. Smith (St. Edwards) | 22 | 17 | 77.27 |
| D. Christie (Lpool YM C) | 26 | 20 | 76.92 |

| DIVISION 7 | P | W | % |
|-------------------------------|----|----|-------|
| *E. Hand (Liverpool CC A) | 26 | 23 | 88.46 |
| *J. Brannagan (Wav Lab B) | 30 | 26 | 86.66 |
| G. L. Taylor (Lpool CC A) | 26 | 22 | 84.61 |
| F. Winstanley (Rafters D) | 30 | 23 | 76.66 |
| *G. Moon (Eng. Elec. B) | 34 | 26 | 76.47 |
| *A. V. Widdowson (Crids A) | 34 | 26 | 76.47 |
| R. Conley (Crawfords A) | 32 | 24 | 75.00 |
| *L. Hogg (Wav. Lab. B) | 24 | 18 | 75.00 |
| *W. Manchester (Eng. Elec. A) | 28 | 21 | 75.00 |
| *A. Thatcher (Crawfords A) | 32 | 23 | 71.87 |

| DIVISION 8 | P | W | % |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--------|
| *D. Spencer (Brenka) | 28 | 28 | 100.00 |
| B. Rawcliffe (Brenka) | 28 | 27 | 96.42 |
| W. Miller (Brenka) | 26 | 25 | 96.15 |
| A. Handley (Brenka) | 22 | 20 | 90.90 |
| M. Hartwell (University B) | 28 | 18 | 90.00 |
| *J. Cantwell (Brenka & Brenka A) | 26 | 21 | 80.76 |
| *A. Guy (Brenka) | 28 | 22 | 78.57 |
| D. Brundritt (University B) | 22 | 17 | 77.27 |
| Mrs. E. Cantwell (Brenka A) | 24 | 18 | 75.00 |

| WOMEN'S DIVISION | P | W | % |
|--------------------------|----|----|--------|
| *M. Jones (Bohemians) | 26 | 26 | 100.00 |
| *M. Willcox (Bohemians) | 28 | 27 | 96.42 |
| *M. Francis (Oakhill) | 30 | 27 | 90.00 |
| I. Crafter (Cadwa) | 26 | 22 | 84.61 |
| G. Grealey (Rafters) | 28 | 23 | 82.14 |
| *R. Royle (Bibbys) | 26 | 21 | 80.76 |
| D. D'Arcy | 28 | 22 | 78.57 |
| *M. Harris (Linnets) | 32 | 25 | 78.12 |
| J. A. Crafter (Cadwa) | 26 | 20 | 76.92 |
| I. Newell (Bath Street) | 30 | 23 | 76.66 |
| *B. Taylor (Bath Street) | 30 | 23 | 76.66 |

| DOUBLES | P | W | % |
|------------------------------------|----|----|--------|
| *M. Jones and M. Willcox (Bohs) | 13 | 13 | 100.00 |
| *B. Black and I. Crafter (Cadwa) | 12 | 10 | 83.83 |
| *M. Harris and L. Wynne (Linnets) | 16 | 13 | 81.25 |
| E. Glead and A. Gee (Bohs) | 15 | 12 | 80.00 |
| G. Burns and J. A. Crafter (Cadwa) | 8 | 6 | 75.00 |

A NEW TOURNAMENT?

(by John McKim)

As some of you may have read in the "Liverpool Echo", the Committee have given much thought to the suggestion that a further tournament or tournaments should be run in order to cater for the lower division players who have very little chance of getting far in the "Open" or "Closed" Championships.

Whilst there is undoubtedly some merit in this idea there are a number of points to be considered, namely:—

- (a) the problem of fitting extra events into the season.
- (b) The cost involved. A room would have to be hired, tables obtained, lights fitted, prizes supplied etc., and the new event being open to only a limited section of the League would of necessity have a lower income from entry fees than the Closed, but might well cost almost as much to run.
- (c) Probably the point on which there would be most argument is where to draw the line—who will be eligible, Division 5 and lower, Division 6 and lower, or Division 4 and lower ... etc.

We would welcome your views on this matter as the Committee has postponed further discussion until we hear what you think about the idea.

Committee's Solution

In the last *Digest*, mention was made of the problem of late and non-arrival of players at matches and the Committee's attitude to the problem. Now the Committee are naturally concerned about this, but

the answer is not as easy as some people would have us believe. First of all, let us separate the two points—players arriving late and players not turning up. A player who turns up late is no problem for the Committee unless his or her set or sets are claimed, then the offence becomes one of a team playing short, and is dealt with by the Committee. Therefore in the case of late arrivals, the Committee is powerless to do anything under the present rules, unless sets are claimed. So, team captains, make it an offence to turn up late by claiming sets, and we will act.

Regarding teams playing short, we have already warned one club who have offended a number of times, that the next team of theirs that plays short will be suspended for two League matches and those matches awarded to their opponents 10-0.

The case for refusing entry to the League of offending clubs is not, I think, very strong. If a club is let down by one or two players (as is usually the case) what does it mean if we refuse entry to the League next season? It means that its members, all of them, who wish to continue playing simply register for another club, so the innocent members of the club are forced to change clubs, and the offending players proceed to get their new club a bad name.

This matter is an important one and one that must be solved. The Annual General Meeting will be held in May next, as usual, when YOU will make new rules or confirm the existing rules by not submitting any amendments. It has been stated that the Committee should manage—it must also carry out YOUR instructions as contained in the League rules.

CANDID COMMENTS

by The Editor

OUR feature "Letters to the Editor" contains a suggestion from Mr. R. Charman, of University T.T.C., that the *Digest* be broadened to take in affairs other than purely local table-tennis. We are delighted to meet his wishes, if not in whole, at least in part, by including in this issue such diverse items as the national ranking list, a comment on the Lancashire v. Gloucestershire match and a report by Ray Hebson on the Lancashire Open. Beyond this we cannot go for the simple reason that space at our disposal is insufficient. When we took this job on we were assured that matter for publication would be as hard to come by as the proverbial needle in a haystack, but the plain fact is that at the time of going to press we have had to decide what to leave out, not what to put in.

An interesting suggestion

We had a very interesting chat the other evening with that bright young lad, always brimful of ideas (not necessarily all good), "Monty" Montgomery. Apparently he'd been having a natter with someone else who tipped him off that the London League had a rather novel idea in the matter of points awarded for matches won. Discarding the time-honoured "Two points for a win and One for a Draw" dogma, they apparently work on a sliding scale along the following lines:—

| Result | Points Awarded to | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| | Winners | Losers |
| 10-0 or 9-1 ... | 5 | 0 |
| 8-2 or 7-3 ... | 4 | 1 |
| 6-4 | 3 | 2 |
| 5-5 | 2 | 2 |

At first glance this system does look a little ponderous, but before declaring it unsuitable let us first examine its merits.

Firstly, it ensures interest right up to the end of the very last set with every player able to contribute something to his own side even in defeat. Think how often interest has evaporated after the conclusion of the sixth game under the present system.

Secondly, it penalises those clubs who persistently "play short"—at present a team having three very strong players can sometimes afford to give their opponents four sets for nothing and still suffer no penalty (other than a possible fine) by winning 6-4. Under the above method their opponents would secure two points even if the result was the same.

Lastly, and this also is material, the benefit to be gained from "fiddling the order" would be reduced to a minimum as no captain would willingly risk conceding two points to his opponent without being certain of the outcome. Think it over and let us know what you feel about it.

"Funky"

It is with regret that we turn now to the reply to our Candid Comment in the last issue given by League Secretary, John McKim, in response to our challenge to the Management Committee, to take firm action against persistent offenders in the matter of non-appearance at matches.

Could anything be more puerile than the latest action by the Committee in warning a club that a repetition of the offence (described by John as "a club which has offended a number of times"—his own words) will cause them to forfeit the next two matches 10-0. We, for our part, feel that a club which offends "on a number of occasions" couldn't really care less about the result anyway (if they did, they'd turn up) so a penalty of this nature is almost ludicrous. Who are the Management Committee penalising? Surely not the offenders, but rather those other clubs whose promotion or relegation might hinge on an arbitrary decision of this kind. To these sort of measures we can only say "Funky"—not only to the Management of the League but also to the Committees of those clubs who cannot, or will not, discipline those players who persistently make a mockery not only of the letter of the rules, but of the spirit also.

AROUND THE DIVISIONS

(by our Special Correspondents)

Division 1

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|----------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Balfour . . . | 18 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 132 | 48 | 33 |
| L'pl YM . . . | 18 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 114 | 66 | 28 |
| Bootle YM . . | 18 | 12 | 3 | 3 | 116 | 64 | 27 |
| Bohs . . . | 18 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 109 | 71 | 27 |
| Rafters . . . | 17 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 115 | 55 | 26 |
| Oakhill . . . | 18 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 88 | 92 | 18 |
| Anfield . . . | 17 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 82 | 88 | 16 |
| Linnets . . . | 16 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 79 | 81 | 15 |
| Vic. Pk. . . | 18 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 82 | 98 | 15 |
| Vic. Pk. A . . | 18 | 5 | 11 | 2 | 75 | 105 | 12 |
| Bath St. . . | 17 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 74 | 96 | 11 |
| L'pl YM A . . | 17 | 3 | 11 | 3 | 70 | 100 | 9 |
| Litherland . . | 17 | 2 | 12 | 3 | 53 | 117 | 7 |
| W'loo Pk . . . | 17 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 31 | 139 | 0 |

THE January flu epidemic has been responsible for some remarkable results since our last notes. Bootle Y.M.C.A., leading contenders for second place in the table, suffered a set-back in losing to Victoria Park by six sets to four. Semi-invalids Rogerson and Allanson lost all their events despite playing at four and five, and the score card certainly suggests that a fit reserve is a better bet than a player who is "under the weather".

Reserve strength played an important part in the clash between Linnets and Balfour, when both teams were short of two of their regular players. Underhill distinguished himself by beating Willcock and reserve Chambers, while young Tony Green performed the giant-killing act of the season by beating Mulholland. Regulars E. Davies and Roy Jones each won an event to give Linnets an unexpected draw. Norman Jones was Balfour's only double winner, beating Green and Roy Jones. Despite the loss of this point Balfour still lead by a clear margin, and having formed the habit again of fielding a full team seem certain to be champions.

Rafters are generally enjoying a winning season but have recently lost Arthur Jones, who has left the district. Filling the gap is none other than Ted Rumjahn, making a welcome return to the League after several seasons retirement. It will be interesting to see how long it

takes Ted to climb up the team order.

The Victoria Park "Derby" matches have been played recently and each resulted in a draw. In the first clash Bob Hudson was the "A" team's hero, including Clein among his scalps. The team orders were well shuffled for the return match but despite Clein gaining revenge on Hudson, the spoils were shared again. Who would like the job of ranking the Park's top ten?

K.J.

Division 2

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|----------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| W'loo Dk . . . | 18 | 15 | 1 | 2 | 132 | 68 | 32 |
| Rafters A . . | 18 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 116 | 64 | 29 |
| Beauchair . . | 19 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 120 | 70 | 27 |
| Vic. Pk. B . . | 18 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 108 | 72 | 26 |
| Balfour A . . | 18 | 12 | 5 | 1 | 112 | 68 | 25 |
| Btle YM A . . | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 107 | 83 | 25 |
| Bohs A . . . | 18 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 104 | 76 | 20 |
| R.A.F.A. . . . | 18 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 89 | 97 | 17 |
| Oakhill A . . | 18 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 71 | 109 | 12 |
| Cadwa | 18 | 5 | 11 | 2 | 69 | 111 | 12 |
| Bath St. A . . | 18 | 4 | 13 | 1 | 70 | 110 | 9 |
| Anfield A . . | 18 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 59 | 121 | 8 |
| Lthrland A . . | 18 | 2 | 13 | 3 | 54 | 126 | 7 |
| Lucem | 18 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 59 | 121 | 5 |

WATERLOO DOCK still keep ahead in the promotion race, and lead by a short head from Rafters "A" and Beauchair. It begins to look a bit like a photo finish at the end, but that is all to the good. However, whichever of the teams do go up eventually, it seems almost certain that they will need a bit of strengthening to retain first division status, which statement is borne out by Readman Cup results, in which all three were beaten very comfortably by 1st division teams. If, as seems probable, Waterloo Dock do go up, we shall see Jack Seddon where many people have long thought he should be—against the best in Liverpool. Jack has long been one of the best stroke players in the League, but his loyalty to the Dock has kept him too long playing inferior opposition, and I think there must be very few who would not wish him to get among the select at long last. I wonder how many years this team have played together?

Bootle Y.M.C.A. have fallen away a bit, and appear to be out of the hunt for this season, but a sustained effort may even yet do the trick for them. Let the dog-fight continue!

At the other end, Lucem and Anfield 'A' have each added to their points total, bringing Cadwa and Litherland 'A' into another free-for-all to avoid relegation. And both Bath Street 'A' and Oakhill 'A' are very vulnerable. A very interesting position. In fact there are only three teams who are comfortably placed with neither promotion or relegation to worry about, yet these three are all strong enough to influence the position at the top as well as among the relegation bunch. There will be more than one shock result from the remaining few weeks matches.

J.R.G.

Division 3

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| University | 18 | 14 | 0 | 4 | 121 | 59 | 32 |
| Fairlawn | 19 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 132 | 58 | 31 |
| Btle YM B | 18 | 13 | 5 | 0 | 109 | 71 | 26 |
| L.P.A.S. | 17 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 104 | 66 | 25 |
| Rafters B | 17 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 93 | 77 | 21 |
| Linnets A | 17 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 91 | 79 | 19 |
| Balfour B | 18 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 93 | 87 | 18 |
| Linacre | 19 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 101 | 89 | 17 |
| L'pl YM B | 19 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 97 | 93 | 17 |
| Eng. Elec. | 19 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 87 | 103 | 15 |
| Cadwa A | 19 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 76 | 114 | 12 |
| Har. Hse. | 18 | 3 | 11 | 4 | 67 | 113 | 10 |
| Vic. Pk C | 16 | 4 | 11 | 1 | 53 | 107 | 9 |
| W'loo Pk A | 18 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 36 | 104 | 0 |

I WAS interested to notice that the game between the two youngest players in Division 3, M. Dean, of Cadwa, and G. Birch, of Bootle Y.M., ended in a victory for the Cadwa player. Scores of 20/22, 21/7, 22/20 suggest it must have been an exciting third game. Although R. Eden won his two games for Cadwa, the Bootle team still managed to win the match 6-4 to maintain their challenge for a top position.

English Electric are having rather a lean season, but they had a good win in January at the expense of Liverpool Y.M. For once, luck seemed to go with Jack Lambert's team when two vital events were clinched in the third after deuce, Smitton beating Goldson 21/17, 21/23, 24/22, and Lambert beating J. Cullen 21/10, 21/23, 23/21.

Linacre did well to hold L.P.A.S. to a draw, mainly due to the good form of F. Lacey, who easily overcame Gauld and Hough. R. Purnell also did his bit by defeating Heague 22/20 in the third.

Teams in the top half of a league often look back on the results of previous fixtures and regret losing vital points to weaker teams. Two teams who might be put in this category are Balfour 'B' and Linnets 'A'. Both have dropped points to teams below them, when on paper it would seem that their playing strength must accomplish better results. When these two sides met at Balfour in January, Linnets 'A' managed to win 7-3, the closest game being Jimmy Green's win over Phil Cox, 22/20, 16/21, 24/22.

Rafters 'B' have also allowed some vital points to escape, but they just managed to beat Harold House 6-4. Barry Jacobs was able to turn out for the House, but although he defeated Gallagher in two straight, Eric Caird beat him 22/20, 22/20. Mrs. Reynolds, turning out as reserve for Rafters, brought off two good wins to ensure victory for her side.

Division 4

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Sefton Gen | 17 | 16 | 0 | 2 | 132 | 48 | 34 |
| Lussac | 17 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 113 | 57 | 31 |
| Bohs B | 19 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 125 | 65 | 28 |
| Vic. Pk. D | 17 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 104 | 66 | 25 |
| W'loo Dk A | 18 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 97 | 83 | 19 |
| Linnets B | 18 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 96 | 84 | 19 |
| Anfield B | 18 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 92 | 88 | 17 |
| L.P.A.S. A | 18 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 83 | 97 | 15 |
| Bath St B | 18 | 6 | 12 | 0 | 73 | 107 | 12 |
| Oakhill B | 19 | 4 | 11 | 4 | 76 | 114 | 12 |
| Lthrland B | 16 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 67 | 93 | 10 |
| Cadwa B | 17 | 4 | 11 | 2 | 73 | 97 | 10 |
| Balfour C | 17 | 3 | 11 | 3 | 57 | 113 | 7 |
| Btle YM C | 17 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 46 | 124 | 5 |

UNLESS an unforeseen collapse occurs, it is virtually certain that either Sefton or Lussac will win this division, with the other as runners-up. Neither Bohemians 'B' nor Victoria Park 'D', who are the only ones still within any distance at all, should overhaul them. Indeed, even though Lussac may win the encounter on February 28th, the tremendous sets advantage of Sefton should still gain them

Around the Divisions — continued

first place. But one slip-up by either team can let the other in, so there is every hope of a tight finish yet.

At the other end, Balfour 'C' have made a move to get out of danger, winning three points from the last four, and this brings Oakhill, Litherland, Cadwa and Balfour in to the scrap to avoid the drop to Division 5, although at present Bootle Y.M. seem doomed. So even if the top of the table is sewn up, there is plenty happening at the bottom, and with another ten matches to go, anything can happen.

Linnets 'B' have started that upward move predicted last month, and this despite losing their No. 1 to their 'A' team. With reserves such as Bill Griffiths, Ken Dutch and Frank Crowther they are in an enviable position, for all of these win at least one set in every League match they play. It will be interesting to see just where this team will come at the end. Reserve strength plays a big part in the success or failure of every team.

I hear that there has been a bit of a shake-up at Victoria Park, where the teams have been sorted out. Which may well add some spice to the remaining Fourth Division matches. G.

Division 5

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|-------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Wav. Lab. | 18 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 163 | 17 | 36 |
| L'pool C.C. | 15 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 113 | 37 | 26 |
| Rafters C. | 18 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 103 | 77 | 23 |
| L'pl P.O. | 18 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 99 | 81 | 22 |
| Fairlawn A | 16 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 102 | 58 | 21 |
| Wav. Bapt. | 16 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 96 | 84 | 20 |
| Bohs. C. | 17 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 77 | 93 | 15 |
| Nalgo | 17 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 77 | 93 | 15 |
| Btle Nalgo | 14 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 70 | 70 | 13 |
| Telecomms | 17 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 67 | 103 | 12 |
| Co-op | 15 | 2 | 11 | 2 | 45 | 105 | 6 |
| W'loo Pk. B | 15 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 15 | 135 | 1 |
| Dom. Miss. | 14 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 23 | 117 | 0 |

WATERLOO PARK 'B' and Domestic Mission for the drop to Division 6, or so it would seem. Although Domestic Mission appear to be out of their depth, they are not discouraged, and can always be relied on to turn up and fight to the last point, which is more

than can be said for Waterloo Park 'B'.

It seems that lately, we can expect two or three players to turn up or none at all. It is interesting to note that most of the players who started the season have appeared, and their places are being filled by young players from the 'C' team.

A few weeks ago, three of these youngsters turned up to play against Wavertree Labour. They seemed genuinely surprised and embarrassed when the two supposedly more experienced players failed to turn up. To my mind, this isn't fair. Could it be, I wonder, that the officials of Waterloo Park have forgotten that they have a 'B' team?

The best performance of this month was undoubtedly that of Liverpool P.O. in holding the Cricket Club to a draw. Doubles from Cornthwaite and Carr provided the basis for this feat. Perhaps this may be an omen of better times ahead for the Post Office, who since re-entering the League, under their new name, have never enjoyed the same success as their predecessors—Panto.

Since the last issue of the *Digest*, another old friend has re-joined our ranks after some years absence—Gerry Linsner—many will remember him from his Florence Oxton days, and latterly, Linnets. His signing for Wavertree Labour greatly lessens anyone's chances of stopping the Labour Club from lifting the League and Cup double. R.McE.

Division 6

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|-------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Wav Lab A | 19 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 163 | 27 | 38 |
| St. Ed. OB | 17 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 121 | 49 | 30 |
| Fairlawn B | 18 | 12 | 3 | 3 | 115 | 65 | 27 |
| Beauclair A | 17 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 119 | 52 | 24 |
| Crawfords | 17 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 106 | 64 | 22 |
| L'pl YM C | 16 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 94 | 66 | 19 |
| Unvrsty A | 17 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 92 | 78 | 18 |
| L.P.A.S. B | 18 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 74 | 106 | 15 |
| Stanley Hse | 19 | 5 | 11 | 3 | 70 | 120 | 13 |
| Bath St. C | 17 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 73 | 97 | 12 |
| Cadwa C | 19 | 5 | 13 | 1 | 79 | 111 | 11 |
| Beauclair B | 18 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 60 | 120 | 9 |
| S. Ed OB A | 19 | 4 | 15 | 0 | 53 | 137 | 8 |
| Anfield C | 19 | 2 | 17 | 0 | 36 | 154 | 4 |

THE individual averages, now published in this issue, certainly show the strength of Wavertree Labour. They not only have fine players in the first twelve but sitting atop the lot with a 100% record is their reserve, Brannigan.

The St. Edward's Club have three men in this select group, but against Stanley House, whose No. 1—Lynn—won his two sets, they dropped a surprise point. I do not think that this means that the Saints are in danger of slipping from second place, as Tom Smith was unable to play in this match.

Brenka, from Division 8, play Crawfords in one Hyde Cup Semi, with Wavertree Labour and Liverpool Y.M. contesting the other—when one looks at the Brenka record, one realises they will not be an easy nut to crack and Crawfords will have to be on top form to ensure a final appearance.

Form indicates that Wavertree Labour will be finalists and indeed eventual winners. Some other divisions seem to suffer a lot from abnormally late arrivals and short teams. We appear to be fortunate in this respect and I sincerely hope that we continue to play full teams each week, in spite of the advent of the 'flu bug.

In many clubs we play our games to the accompaniment of background noises emanating from other sections of the club premises, but the most unusual I have heard was at the Y.M. when we entertained Beauclair 'B'—the people who were enjoying a dance in the hall below the table tennis room produced a Scotsman complete with bagpipes!!

Division 7

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|-------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Crwfrds A | 18 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 139 | 41 | 34 |
| L'pl C.C. A | 18 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 136 | 44 | 33 |
| Wav Lab B | 18 | 15 | 2 | 1 | 118 | 62 | 31 |
| Nalgo A | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 111 | 79 | 24 |
| Rafters D | 18 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 109 | 71 | 23 |
| Eng. Elec B | 18 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 89 | 91 | 17 |
| Fairlawn C | 18 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 88 | 92 | 17 |
| Bile YM D | 18 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 79 | 101 | 16 |
| Linnets C | 18 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 87 | 93 | 16 |
| Eng. Elec A | 17 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 82 | 88 | 15 |
| Tech. Studs | 17 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 68 | 102 | 12 |
| Lewis's | 18 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 63 | 117 | 5 |
| Crwfrds B | 18 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 44 | 136 | 5 |
| Oakhill C | 19 | 2 | 17 | 0 | 47 | 143 | 4 |

IN Division 7, the position is almost exactly the same as it was in the last issue of the Digest. In fact the only change in positions is that Linnets 'C' have moved up a few places. This rise has started with the arrival of W. Griffiths into the team. Having played in four matches he is still unbeaten.

We still have Crawfords 'A', Liverpool C.C. 'A' and Wavertree Labour 'A' well in the lead. Crawfords 'A' had a very hard match against Rafters 'D' however. Nearly every set went to three and Crawfords just got the points by 6-4. G. Benson won both his sets for Crawfords while Mrs. J. Reynolds won both of hers for Rafters.

At the bottom of the table, Crawfords 'B' and Oakhill 'C' are finding it very hard indeed to get a few points. Lewis's, however, have picked up three valuable points this last few weeks.

Well played, R. McNaughton, of Lewis's who won both his sets against Liverpool C.C., beating E. Hand and R. Dean. However, his team lost the match 8-2. Bootle Y.M. 'D' have a couple of good young players in Rob and Ray Rogers. Anyone playing both of them in the same match may be excused for thinking he is being double crossed!

The two English Electric teams are keeping almost level on points so far and it will be interesting to see whether the 'B' team will be able to finish above the 'A' team at the end of the season. G.M.

Division 8

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|-------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Brenka | 15 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 132 | 8 | 30 |
| Unvrsity B | 15 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 107 | 43 | 26 |
| Brenka A | 13 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 92 | 38 | 22 |
| Colonsay | 16 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 94 | 66 | 19 |
| W'loo Pk. C | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 79 | 71 | 18 |
| Lthrlnd C | 17 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 82 | 88 | 16 |
| Wav. Lab C | 15 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 78 | 72 | 16 |
| L.Y.C.A. | 16 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 83 | 77 | 12 |
| L'pl C.C. B | 16 | 5 | 10 | 1 | 70 | 90 | 11 |
| Linnets D | 16 | 4 | 11 | 1 | 68 | 92 | 9 |
| Sefton A | 14 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 51 | 89 | 9 |
| Har. Hse A | 17 | 3 | 12 | 2 | 38 | 132 | 8 |
| Lthrlnd D | 16 | 2 | 12 | 2 | 24 | 136 | 6 |

Around the Divisions — continued

Note:—All outstanding matches for Harold House 'A' and Litherland 'D' to be regarded as 10-0 walk overs.

BRENKA still carry all before them in these lowly circles, and it is more than evident that they are playing in a very much lower division than is warranted by their ability. Their 'A' team, also seem well above the average of their opponents, having lost only to the first team and to University 'B', with whom they are having a dog-fight for promotion. It is more difficult than usual to make a forecast, owing to the alterations in the University fixtures due to vacations, but there is certain to be interest to the end, heightened by the last match of the season Brenka v University 'B', which might, well be the solution to the second place problem.

What has happened to Harold House 'A'? Only one match have

they played since December 7th, and then only four men arrived.

They conceded a 10-0 walk-over to Linnets 'D' on their OWN table, and it seems most peculiar that they do not even attend for home matches. It is a pretty poor show when they allow other teams to come to their club and not bother to turn up to play them. This team might well take a leaf from the book of their own first team, who have turned up with five players for every match, and who play in the best spirit of the game.

Colonsay have been unlucky to enter the League when the opposition from Brenka's teams is so tough. In more normal years they would probably have been showing among the leaders, and in the event that they are still in the Eighth next season, they should prove a very tough proposition, especially with the experience gained from this season.

Women's Notes

(by Eileen Mansell)

Women's Division

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|----------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Rafters | 18 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 134 | 46 | 33 |
| Bohs | 17 | 15 | 0 | 2 | 141 | 29 | 32 |
| Cadwa | 17 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 142 | 28 | 31 |
| Oakhill | 17 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 113 | 57 | 23 |
| Bath St. | 16 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 104 | 56 | 21 |
| Linnets | 16 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 91 | 69 | 19 |
| Wav. Lab. | 15 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 84 | 66 | 17 |
| Orrell | 16 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 87 | 73 | 16 |
| Cadwa A | 16 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 78 | 82 | 16 |
| Bibbys | 16 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 70 | 90 | 12 |
| Bohs A | 16 | 4 | 12 | 0 | 57 | 103 | 8 |
| Huntly & P | 16 | 3 | 13 | 0 | 45 | 115 | 6 |
| W'loo Pk. | 17 | 3 | 14 | 0 | 44 | 126 | 6 |
| Rafters A | 15 | 2 | 13 | 0 | 22 | 128 | 4 |
| Btle Nalgo | 16 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 8 | 142 | 0 |

The Closed Championships

I AM appealing to all the lady members of the league to enter the Closed Championships in April. After all, the tournament is run for the benefit of the players and it is up to us to give the Management Committee our backing. They put in a lot of really hard work organising this event and would be repaid

for their efforts by a really good response. So get cracking now, fix up your partners for both the Mixed Doubles and the Women's Doubles with the minimum of delay and send in your entry forms as soon as possible.

There really is no excuse for not entering—the paying conditions and catering facilities are excellent,

Close fight continues

As I predicted last month it is going to be a very close finish at the top of the league table, where the first teams of Bohemians and Rafters are fighting it out tooth and nail. My own inclination is to fancy Bohs in the final run-in if only because I cannot see a better combination than Moya Jones and Muriel Wilcox—two very formidable opponents indeed.

Both are playing extremely well in the Men's Divisions and the tougher opposition in that sphere seems to make them pretty near invincible in the Women's Section.

Women's Notes continued

Moya has won all her matches so far in straight sets whilst Muriel, despite on or two close calls, has failed to win on only one occasion when Reggie Royle beat her.

Cadwa seem to have lost their chance of repeating their double success of last year—in one way not a bad thing, as dominance by one club for too long can only lessen interest.

At the bottom of the table Bootle Nalco seem to be beset with team troubles, not, I hope, an indication that they are likely to drop out from the league next season. Perhaps a recruiting campaign during the summer might see a solution to their problems.

Waterloo Park and Rafters 'A' are also at the lower end of the division. Neither team is doing very well from a results point of view but all concerned are enjoying themselves and do not get disheartened if on a hiding to nothing. I have registered for Cadwa and am playing as reserve for them, an opportunity I welcome if only to enable me to attend matches without feeling frustrated because I can't have a go.

One match in which I took part was that against Waterloo Park who, although losing every game, put up a very game fight and took their defeat as sportingly as we knew they would. In Joan Pedley, their No. 1 player, they have some-

one with a very nice style and who could, with the right sort of practice, become a more than useful player.

Barbara Horsley, of Wavertree Labour, like Joan Pedley, would be a much better player given the right encouragement and practice.

Perhaps this is a challenge to the male members of the various clubs. What do you do to see that your lady members improve their game? For myself, I am indebted to the Balfour men's teams for the opposition which they provided for me and I know the same thing is true of Bohs and Rafters. Is it not more than a coincidence that these clubs provide such a lot of the leading lady players?

Bartholomew Cup

Between the writing of these notes and the end of the month the semi-finals of the Bartholomew Cup will have been played and a full report will appear in the next issue of the *Digest*.

Semi-finals never do attract the crowds, but I am making a special appeal for lots of support for the final when it comes along. Any pairing of the four teams left in will lead to a battle royal and a goodly attendance will give just that little extra atmosphere which the big occasion needs. So roll up and give your support—it will be much appreciated by those taking part.

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LOSTOCK IN THE FOG

(by Ray Hebson)

THE Lostock factory at De Havillands lies roughly midway between the town centres of Bolton and Wigan. Motoring Scousers can get there quite easily by making for Wigan and leaving by the road to Horwich. For the non-motorist there are buses from Wigan and Bolton. But who wants to go? Please read on.

It is at De Havillands that the Lancashire Open Table Tennis Championships are held each January. To Liverpool players who enjoy tournaments, and would like to enter one between our own Open and Closed without a long journey, I can recommend the Lancashire Open. A friendly event, it caters largely for players from Lancashire, although there are always a few from further afield. This year the day was Saturday, January 14, and unhappily it was marred by thick fog. The Bolton League officials, who run the tournament for the Lancashire Table Tennis Association, had a worrying time, but they battled on cheerfully despite being about an hour behind schedule due to late arrivals.

The Liverpool players present could almost have been counted on the fingers, but one was there who seldom takes his bat to a tournament nowadays—our Organising Secretary, John McKim. Unable to reach Lostock for the Men's Singles, he played his usual solid defensive game in the Men's Doubles but his partner was most erratic. (Thinking about doubles, the tables lacked service-lines. I wonder why.)

It was encouraging to see three Liverpool juniors in evidence. Roy Smith, although he survived only one round of the boys' event, narrowly missed the quarter-final of the Men's Singles. John Ball managed to fight through two rounds of the Boys' Singles but (with Judy Crafter) went out of

the first round of the Mixed Doubles after they had played well against powerful opponents. Judy was unlucky in the Girls' Singles draw. However, all three look good prospects for the future. The junior winners were H. G. Coward, of Sheffield, and Miss E. A. Gordon, of Manchester.

At the other end of the age scale were nine veteran contestants, of whom three were Liverpool League players (one lady and two penholders), but none of these reached the final, which was won by H. M. Nixon, of Manchester.

In the main singles events the Liverpool representation was extremely thin. At the finals, Jeff Ingber (Manchester) retained his Men's Singles title against D. Schofield, of Stockport, but Mrs. Griffiths (Birmingham) lost the Women's Singles to D. Wright, also from Stockport. Ingber's win came as no surprise, for as England's No. 3 he was the only ranked player present. Incidentally, I wonder how many *Digest* readers know the current England rankings? They are given elsewhere in this issue.

One facility which was welcome at the Lancashire Open, and which we lack at our Merseyside Open, was a licensed bar. I mention this at the risk of causing offence in some quarters; but I have yet to encounter inebriety at a table tennis tournament, and I doubt if anyone would attend such an event for the main purpose of drinking.

The fog which clamped down in the morning persisted through the afternoon and evening and some players arranged to spend the night in Bolton. Next year let us hope for good weather and a bus load from Liverpool!

Doubles winners were: J. Ingber and P. Strulovitch (Lancs.); Miss M. Leigh and Miss W. Swift (Lancs.); S. Dyson and Miss P. Morton (Yorks.).

Liverpool Stages County Match

LIVERPOOL had the honour, and the pleasure of staging the Lancashire v Gloucestershire county match on Saturday, 18th February, 1961, when between 150 and 200 spectators turned up to see a splendid display.

On the face of it, the attendance seems wonderfully good, but some of the gilt on the gingerbread is lost when it is realised that there was a very strong contingent from Manchester.

Perhaps even more to the point was the dearth of juniors to be seen amongst those watching. One would have thought that the opportunity of seeing at close quarters such accomplished players as Ian Harrison (currently ranked as England's No. 1), J. Ingber and B. Merrett (sharing No. 1 ranking with Harrison) would have been too good to miss, but their presence was, unfortunately, conspicuous by its absence. Only about three or four were noticed during the evening. What price the coaching scheme now?

The match itself, although like the curate's egg—good in parts—was very exciting and a win for

Lancashire was more than on the cards when they had established a commanding 4-1 lead by the time the interval had arrived. Amid mounting tension the score reached 4-4 and was unrelieved until the end when a draw was the result.

Amongst the highlights of the evening were Allcock's win over A. Simons, Harrison's performance in beating Ingber and Merrett's footwork which was a feature throughout.

One of the more depressing features of the occasion was the manner in which the sponge bat contrived to reduce first-class players to a mediocrity which spoilt the spectacle from the spectators' point of view. If the accent is to be on winning . . . all well and good, but the powers-that-be haven't very far to look in their endeavours to account for the missing hundreds of spectators in relation to the crowds which used to adorn our matches a few short years ago.

One final thought. Moya Jones would not have been out of place in this match. What a pity the county selectors did not share these views.

Results

Allcock beat Simons 19, -17, 17.

Ingber lost to Merrett -18, 11, -10.

Clayton beat Harrison 10, -12, 22.

Miss W. Swift and Mrs. C. Spooner beat Miss M. Jones and Miss J. Dando 12, -23, 22.

Ingber and Strulovitch beat Harrison and Merrett 18, -18, 18.

Miss W. Swift and Mrs. C. Spencer beat Miss M. Jones and Miss J. Dando

Allcock lost to Merrett -17, 18, -15.

Strulovitch and Mrs. Spencer lost to Simons and Miss Dando -20, 11, -15.

Clayton beat Simons 15, 18.

Ingber lost to Harrison 20, 16.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Having condemned the first issue of the *Digest*, I must now let you know that, in my opinion, the Dec./Jan. issue was a great improvement and the speed with which your house has been put in order, is appreciated.

Your editorial, however, casts doubts on my statement that at one time each division was allotted a full page, whereas if volumes 1-4 are examined they will verify the accuracy of my facts, and furthermore they will show that each Region also occupied a full page.

Yours faithfully,

N. Cooke

(Bath St. T.T.C.)

Dear Sir,

As you may well know, table tennis is not as popular a sport as it ought to be. Because of this, most of the national newspapers print no articles concerning the game and so we are unable to learn the results of championships and International matches in this country and abroad.

Might I suggest that "Table Tennis Digest" takes it upon itself to print such results. I am sure that this would be appreciated by readers of the magazine.

Yours sincerely,

R. R. Charman

(University T.T.C.)

Dear Sir,

Mr. N. Cooke, of Bath Street, in your last issue, stated that he was surprised to find that he agreed with me. Sir, his surprise is quite outclassed by my own astonishment to find that after so many years, crying in the wilderness, as it were, my voice has been heard at last! Of all those seeds, spread so lavishly upon stoney ground these many moons, one little twee-ween-titchy one has found a chink and has come to fruition in the heart (that noble organ) of Mr. N. Cooke (my sole convert!). At this rate of progress I shall soon have a Fan Club. May I press Mr. N. Cooke to become its first President?

In the same issue, Mr. Cohen (Liverpool C.C.) states that he cannot change into his table tennis rig because no clubs are fitted with showers. May I point out that there are very many players who DO change, despite the lack of showers. With regard to changing facilities, there are very few clubs who do not provide some sort of spot where the trousers (sorry—"lower garments") may be changed. Indeed, the ladies nearly all play in correct garb, and I cannot think that Mr. Cohen suggests that they change their lower garments in the presence of their male colleagues—which would indeed be most unmaidenly. No, Mr. Cohen, why not admit that you just do not want to change and that this is as good an excuse as you can think of?

Jim Green

(Linnets)

- Question Box — Answers
1. Six—Don Foulis, Ken Hyde, Eric Hyde, Peter Rumjahn, Ted Rumjahn, Ron Rumjahn.
 2. Tom Blunn, who was joint Auditor for the League, until he moved from Liverpool and got his present post with the E.T.T.A.
 3. Yes, but you would lose a point if the ball hit your body before it would have gone over the edge of the table.
 4. Bill Pierce.
 5. Yes, because a rest is the term for every rally, the result of which means that a point is scored.
 6. We have no idea—how about writing to the Editor and staking your claim?