

Volume XII.
Number 1



November 1961
Price 6d.

**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

Published during the months of November, January, February, March and April.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Editor: **Eric Caird**

J. Green (News), A. Montgomery (Features), J. McKim and A. Upton

Vol. XII

November, 1961

No. 1

EDITORIAL

IT is not our intention to dilate upon the offences of the Wavertree Labour T.T.C. in playing persons under assumed names, nor to comment on the penalty inflicted upon them of forfeiting home matches 0-10 and being excluded from the Cup competitions, but rather to commend the Management Committee on the stand which they have taken.

Liverpool table tennis last season was bedevilled by offences of one sort and another to the detriment of the game in general, and to the dismay of those players who sought to fulfil their commitments within both the letter and the spirit of the laws. Perhaps the stern attitude of the Management Committee towards Wavertree Labour will have a salutary affect on others who would seek to place themselves above the regulations.

On the other hand, there are matters which are beyond the bounds of legislation and rely solely on moral and social responsibility for their enforcement.

We all know, to our irritation, of the player who arrives late with hardly a word of apology or explanation, and his counterpart who leaves the scene immediately his two sets are played.

Then there is the Club secretary who accepts office, but not the responsibility, and fails to notify members of changes in opponents' match nights, venue, etc.

At club level we have instances of more teams being registered than can possibly be maintained resulting in teams either perpetually "playing short" or, alternatively, failing to play fixtures—Division 8 being a case in point where 5 teams have already folded their tents and departed.

Just how these sort of things can be catered for in rules and regulations is difficult to conceive—the problem, in our opinion, will not be resolved until players themselves adopt the attitude of treating others as they themselves would wish to be treated.

The unfortunate part of all this is the fact that it is only a comparatively small number of players who spoil the enjoyment of the many—perhaps Monty's "Without Comment—or Apology" and Reg Gray's "A Letter to the Editor" which appear on succeeding pages, will inspire offenders to realise that, in the long run, "The Glory is not in Winning but in having taken part".

Without Comment — or Apology

by "MONTY"

SOME fifteen years ago, after playing together for some seasons in the L.B.A. League, and after forming (and governing) Linacre Boys Club, five enthusiasts banded together to form a team to play in the Liverpool League. Since they were the sole members, they formed the complete Club strength of Linacre, and since none was in any way senior to the others, it is fitting that in naming them, it should be in alphabetical order—the brothers Davidson (Alec and John), Tom Larkin, Frank Lacey and D. (Mac) McGonigle. Doubtless the "D" stands for a christian name, but he has never been referred to by teammate or opponent in my hearing other than as "Mac"—which alone speaks volumes. These five played for three years in the old North Region, one season in the 5th Division, and then "jumped" to the 3rd when the Wirral Clubs left to found their own League. They have been there ever since.

With Jack Davidson as Secretary, these five played together solidly for SEVEN seasons, and in that time turned out "short" only twice—both times through illness—in itself a truly remarkable record. Then the membership took on a 20% increase—Arthur Moorhead joined, and at the same time the late Tommy Larkin took over the job of Secretary (not a very onerous task at Linacre), keeping the job until his tragic death some 18 months ago. Tragic, not only to his colleagues, but to the multitude of friends the Linacre team had made over the years throughout the League.

But the other four founder members still remain, although they have now been joined by Harry Reeve, Mike O'Neill and Ron Purnell.

Playing at Linacre has been a most pleasurable experience enjoyed

by very many players over the past fifteen years. They have never been among the medals, but they play the game as it should be played—to enjoy themselves (to win if possible of course) but, as far as they can do so, to ensure that their opponents enjoy themselves as well. The highest League position they have reached has been fourth, but such is the atmosphere they create, that every team leaves with the feeling that the evening has been well spent, and, lamentable though it may be, there are many clubs with more "honours" who cannot say the same. Which is the more successful? Well, it is a matter of the respective values of a collection of medals and a host of friends.

Alec Davidson keeps a book, in which is entered a copy of the score card of every match ever played by Linacre. Once or twice I have been privileged to look through it, and read the names of players long retired, names which crop up in different clubs from time to time; but from the first, the same names recur under "Linacre". In these days of the "globe-trotting" player, it is refreshing to find loyalty. I doubt if it has ever occurred to any one of these lads to join another club. There must be some sort of moral here somewhere.

One of the longest serving members of the League played at Linacre last season for the first time, and commented to me afterwards "It was the nicest match I have played in for years".

There are few in the League who do not hope to see Linacre take some of the honours in the future, but even if they never do, they can certainly reflect that they have added far more to the League than others who collected plenty of medals. May it be many years before we lose them.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

35 Kendal Drive,
Maghull.
23rd August, 1961

Dear Editor,

My teenage son has just received the registration forms for the forthcoming season from Jack McKim. For many years it was my pleasure to receive these and deliver them to the members of our Club.

This change of duty from father to son set me thinking of the past, to the many pleasures I have derived from the game and of the lifelong friendships that have been brought about by table tennis, since the inauguration of the League by the late Les Forrest. I cherish these happy memories, and give thanks to the past and present Committees of the League for their loyalty and devotion to the game.

There is no closed season for these officials. They are always working on behalf of its members, and spend many hours of their leisure time seeing how they can increase interest, not only for the present, but for the future.

This hard spade work of the past is a challenge to the youth of today, and I would like to see them accept the spirit of this challenge by working harder, and taking a larger interest in the affairs of League and Club.

There are many rewards for the extra keen young players. He can aim for a place in his Club's first team—for the Liverpool team—Lancashire—and, given the right tuition, even for England. Besides achieving these ambitions much pleasure is to be derived from travelling in happy companionship with your fellow team colleagues wherever the game is played, and many of our players, past and present, have enjoyed trips abroad at the League's expense.

To the young players who do not make this grade I offer this advice (and I was once one of these), and this is—play as hard as you can,

fight like Hades, but no matter what the result, leave the table displaying only the best of sportsmanship. To emphasize this point I remember an occasion round about 1932 when I was playing in either the "A" or "B" team of North Liverpool, when I received an unexpected call to turn out for our first team against City, then 1st Division champions. They played in the basement of the White Cafe in Cook Street. The three Hyde brothers had won their games for City when the teams were called to the Cafe for refreshments, leaving Bobby Readman and myself to play the last game of the first half. I had already lost the first game, and was given instructions to hurry up and get to the refreshments. But to my utter astonishment I won. When we rejoined our team mates, our captain, Sid Jackson, asked for the score card, looked at it, and shouted "You clot Reg, you've marked the card the wrong way". Whereupon my opponent, the jolly good sport that he was, insisted that I had won on merit. I knew that I could never do it again, but what a thrill I got, and I shall never forget Readman's sportsmanship in losing to a rabbit. I think I am right when I say that the Readman cup was presented to the League by Bobby's father prior to his return to London.

I have never reached the heights at any time in my own Club, let alone the League, but my long life in table tennis has given me a fund of exciting and pleasant memories. To the youth of today I say—stick to the game and you too will be enriched with many happy thoughts and friendships, but above all, you will develop your character as you go along.

I wish the League, its officials, all the players, together with the *Digest* a very happy and successful season.

Yours sincerely,

Reg Gray

HANDBOOK ALTERATIONS

DESPITE previous notification and the circulation of alterations by individual club secretaries members are still turning up for matches on the wrong night or at the wrong venue. Perhaps the publication of alterations to the Handbook will help... but only if you alter yours—**NOW.**

Page 21—

Delete Balfour 'C' team.
Add to Beaclair Phone Nos.
"Club ROY 2451".

Page 22—

Delete Brenka 'A' and Cadwa 'C'.

Page 23—

Delete Catholic Met. 'A'; alter their 1st team to Division 7.
Delete Cheshire Lines 'A' and Women's teams.

Alter Colonsay match night to Wednesday.

Alter Crawford 1st team match night to Tuesday.

Alter Crawford 'A' team match night to Wednesday.

Alter English Electric 'B' team to Division 6, and add English Electric 'C' Division 8 Tuesday.
Delete Fairlawn 'C' team.

Page 24—

Alter Linnet 'D' team to Division 7, match night Friday.

Delete Liverpool Co-op.
Add to Liverpool C.C. 'C' team Division 8 Wednesday.

Page 25—

Add to Liverpool P.O. Phone Nos. "or GPO 4132 Mr. Shiel".
Alter Lucem match night to Tuesday.

Add to Nalگو Match Secretary, R. Evans, CEN. 8433, Ext. 111.

Page 26—

Delete Oakhill Y.M. 'D' team.

Alter Rafter's match nights as follows:—

1st and Women's 'A' Tuesday,
'A' and 'D' teams Monday, 'B' and 'C' teams Wednesday,
Women's 1st team Thursday.

Alter St. Edwards O.B. as follows:—

Address: now Old Xaverians Tennis Club, Lister Drive. All buses to Casino. Match night now Monday. Secretary, P. Kelly, 39 Score Lane, Liverpool 16. CHI 4801.

Delete Stanley House 'A'.

Page 27—

Delete Wavertree Labour 'D'.
Alter Secretary to Mr. J. Roberts, 91 Macdonald St., Liverpool 15.

Page 35—

Delete Balfour 'C'.

Page 36—

Delete Co-op.

Page 37—

Delete Cadwa 'C'; insert English Electric 'B'.

Page 39—

Delete Brenka 'A'.
Delete Fairlawn 'C'; insert Catholic Met.

Delete English Electric 'B'; insert Linnet 'D'.

Page 41—

Delete Catholic Met.; insert English Electric 'C'.

Delete Linnet 'D'; insert Liverpool C.C. 'C'.

Delete the following:—

Stanley House 'A', Wavertree Labour 'D', Oakhill 'D', Catholic Met. 'A' and Cheshire Lines 'A'.

Page 43—

Delete Waterloo Park and Cheshire Lines.

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CANDID COMMENTS

HAVING commented earlier in this issue on general delinquency within the League, it is with pleasure that we now turn to the two persons selected by the Management Committee as worthy recipients of the President's Award instituted by Mr. Bartholomew prior to his death.

Judy Crafter and Jack Seddon received from the hands of the Chairman, Mr. Arthur Upton, a wristlet watch and a fountain pen, respectively, marking the honour which had been bestowed upon them.

Both players—one a junior and the other with a number of years playing experience behind him—were worthy recipients and we can pay Jack Seddon no higher compliment than to say to Judy that if she conducts herself on the table in the years to come in the same exemplary manner as Jack has done in those which have gone by, she too will be able to look back on her playing career with equal pleasure and pride.

A Premier Division Next Year?

We were interested to see at the A.G.M. held on the 29th May, 1961, how near Bootle Y.M.C.A. came to carrying their motion calling for the institution of a Premier Division along the lines indicated in the April issue of the *Digest*.

It is a pity that their motion that a Premier Division be instituted comprising teams of 3 with relegation of the bottom two clubs to the 1st Division (playing 5 a side) was not more clearly thought out before presentation, as it had much to commend it and would undoubtedly have assisted in the improvement of the standard of play providing more worthy opposition to the better players in the 1st Division.

We would like to think that Ralph Gunnion and his associates will take notice of the objections to their

proposals which in a refined form would stand a much greater chance of success at next year's meeting.

We go so far as to say that if Mr. Gunnion would care to avail himself of the courtesy of these columns, we shall be only too pleased to give his ideas the airing which they deserve.

A Similarity of Ideas

Thumbing through this issue of the *Digest*, one is struck by the recurring theme of individual writers, each of whom, in his own way and in his own context, has posed the problem of the apparent lack of up-and-coming youngsters.

It is indeed a serious problem, as more than one correspondent has pointed out, and one which must be tackled seriously if the present unsatisfactory position is to be rectified.

On this occasion at least, the Management Committee are blameless, for none has done as much as they to stimulate interest amongst the juniors. We only hope that their disappointment in the past will not discourage them, and that ways and means will continue to be sought for bringing younger players to the forefront in Liverpool.

In thinking of youngsters, one's mind automatically turns to the Liverpool Boys' Association and to the query as to whether there is sufficient liaison between the Liverpool League and the governing body of the L.B.A.

How many Clubs have made any effort to "adopt" the table tennis section of a boys' club and with it the provision of facilities for play and opportunities for coaching?

It's a thought which somebody might like to transform into appropriate action.

Any other ideas submitted to the *Digest* will be given the publicity they deserve.

Where are the Juniors ?

(by JACK McCAIG)

IT is the usual practice these days to hold a Junior trial prior to the commencement of the season, but whereas 26 junior players attended the trials last season, for some unknown reason, only 7 came along this time. It will be realised that it was therefore not very difficult to choose two teams of 3 for the opening match which again was the 1st team versus the "A" team. Accordingly, Robert Eden, Gordon Birch and Judy Crafter opposed Roland Stephenson, George Chellew and Sydney White at the Linnet Club, and the fact that the 1st team won the match by 10-0 suggests that the selections were correct. Since then the 1st team have defeated Macclesfield by a similar score, and Warrington by 9 sets to 1, so that it would seem that despite the absence of numbers among the juniors, the quality is pretty fair. It is early to assess the team's chances of repeating last season's 100% success, as stronger teams will surely be encountered at perhaps Stockport and Bolton, and indeed from our friends in the Wirral League. However, so far so good.

Seniors' Chances

Despite two early defeats, one by Manchester 7-3 in the league, and the other by Burnley 5-3 in the Wilmott Cup, I feel that the prospects of our senior team are quite good, and that they will win more matches than they will lose. There is little doubt that the influence of the now fairly mature Ralph Gunnion will have a lot of bearing on future results, and his two wins in each of the matches so far played, including a particularly good one against Clayton in the Manchester match, augurs well for his future. Arthur Taylor has not so far struck top form, but if he can once more find the touch that won him a County appearance, he will also make his mark, as I am sure will Norman Jones in his own very enthusiastic way.

These remarks have already been borne out by the news, just received, that we have beaten Stockport 7-3

in a match in which Taylor and Gunnion attained notable successes with wins over Schofield.

"A" Team Experimental

With Les Mulholland and Vic Chesham virtually out of the game, and Dave Ferguson not yet showing his true form this season, it was decided by the selection committee to blood young Roy Smith who did so well as a junior player, and also Peter Turtle, again playing well, in the team to play the Wirral League. In addition, Wally Allanson was included, but regrettably the match was lost 7 sets to 3, Smith winning one singles event against Ted Morris, and jointly winning the doubles with Turtle. Allanson gained our other success. This was the "A" team's first defeat in two seasons, a very fine record, but this I think is secondary to the fact that the inclusion of Roy Smith was a success. He has an admirable temperament, and improved each time I watch him. With a little more experience he would have also beaten Bob Owen whom he led by 20-17 in the second game, having won the first. Only John Stoddart, back again after a lengthy absence, proved rather too good for Smith at present.

Another Good Start

Finally to the Ladies' "A" team who, despite an almost entirely different side from last season, have again made an excellent start. Mrs. Lawrenson, Mrs. Reynolds and Miss Crafter travelled to Oldham accompanied by non-playing captain Mrs. Crafter, to register another win by 7 sets to 3. Mrs. Reynolds, who came into the side almost at the last minute as replacement for Mrs. Randall, was the mainstay of the side, winning all her three singles events. It seems a pity that, due to the re-organisation of the ladies' section, where there is only one division instead of two, the winning of the league would appear to be a little beyond our "A" team. However, there will be a clash between our two teams later in the season, which may be quite a match.

Around the Divisions

(by our Special Correspondents)

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Rafters	7	6	0	1	58	12	13
L'pool YM	7	6	0	1	55	15	13
Bootle YM	6	6	0	0	49	11	12
Balfour	6	5	1	0	44	16	10
Bohemians	7	5	2	0	40	30	10
L'pool YM A	6	3	1	2	37	23	8
Rafters A	6	2	2	2	27	33	6
Waterloo Dk	6	2	3	1	26	34	5
Anfield	7	2	4	1	26	44	5
Oakhill	5	2	3	0	17	33	4
Victoria Pk	6	1	5	0	21	39	2
Litherland	7	1	6	0	20	50	2
Linnet	7	0	7	0	13	57	0

BEFORE the season started, a facetious remark was made to me that Rafters and Bootle Y.M.C.A. would fight out the championship while the other twelve had a free-for-all to avoid relegation. Not entirely accurate, but much too close to the truth to give satisfaction. Indeed the championship does appear to be a matter concerning only Rafters and Bootle Y.M., for these two stand out like a beacon. However, the two Liverpool Y.M. teams, Balfour and Bohemians do not seem to have cause for relegation worries, but for the rest, it is pretty well a matter of "perm any two from eight".

The bottom end holds far more interest for far more people. Litherland (without Killip), Bath Street (minus Taylor) and Linnets (without Pierce, Hobbs and Davies) still look for their first points. Neither Rafters 'A' nor Waterloo Dock can afford to drop anything going, neither can Victoria Park. But Linnets do have hope of pulling away as soon as Colin Thomas is able to turn out. 'Til then, they just keep battling on, and hope that the four innocents thrown into the 1st division will gain enough in practice and experience to show next season, that this one wasn't wasted. Oakhill have started well enough to show that for this year they need have no cares.

All of which boils down to the fact that, as the old hands pack in, and grow older, there are not

enough younger players about with enough ability to fill their places. An unhappy comment, but I am afraid, only too true. Year by year, the standard of the League drops—due to the advancing age of the old boys. And we just do not seem to have replacements ready. However, young John Higham (Oakhill) shows a ray of hope in his rapid advance.

Jim Green

* * * *

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L.P.A.S.	7	6	1	0	46	24	12
Balfour A	7	5	1	1	42	28	11
Vic. Park A	7	5	1	1	40	30	11
Bootle YM A	6	4	2	0	40	20	8
Bohs A	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
R.A.F.A.	6	3	2	1	36	24	7
Lucem	6	3	2	1	31	29	7
Cadwa	7	3	3	1	35	35	7
Vic. Park B	7	3	3	1	31	39	7
University	7	3	4	0	32	38	6
Bath St. A	7	1	4	2	30	40	4
Beauchair	7	0	4	3	29	41	3
Waterloo Pk	7	1	6	0	23	27	2
Oakhill A	6	0	5	1	17	43	1

AT this stage of the season, it is quite impossible to even attempt to forecast the eventual candidates for promotion and relegation, but my money is on unbeaten Balfour 'A', Victoria Park 'A' and Bohs 'A' to provide the winners—the latter two drawing at Wavertree. At the other end Waterloo Park (1st division last season) and Oakhill 'A' have yet to gain their first point. Beauchair have managed a draw with Bath Street 'A', but they have yet to turn out the same team twice!

The surprise of the season has been the poor form of Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A'. With so many of their team having considerable first division experience, they should be winning more. Perhaps they have yet to run into form.

Returning to this division after only a few years absence, the standard of play seems considerably lower. In fact there seems little or no difference between the 2nd and 3rd divisions as regards strength.

around the Divisions—continued

Young players are few and far between. We confidently expected to find the 2nd division brimming over with eager youngsters on their way up—only to find them outnumbered by the “static” players, and those of us who are on our way down.

Don Gauld

* * * *

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Rafters B	7	7	0	0	53	17	14
Fairlawn	7	5	1	1	47	23	11
L'pool YMB	7	5	1	1	43	27	11
Linnet A	6	4	0	2	41	19	10
Anfield A	7	5	2	0	35	35	10
Bohs B	7	3	2	2	36	34	8
Eng. Elec.	7	3	3	1	36	34	7
Linacre	6	3	3	0	34	26	6
Sefton	7	2	4	1	37	33	5
Litherland A	7	2	5	0	28	42	4
Vic. Park C	7	1	5	1	24	46	3
Bootle YMB	6	1	5	0	22	38	2
Balfour B	6	1	5	0	15	45	2
Cadwa A	7	0	6	1	19	51	1

THE progress of newly promoted Clubs is always watched with interest at the beginning of a season. Sefton General, who lost only one League match last year, gave Fairlawn a hard fight in their first fixture. Although the home side just managed to win 6-4, the Sefton team came very close to reversing that score. Seven events went to three games, the match finishing after 11 p.m.

Sefton's first home game, however, gave them a comfortable 8-2 win over Litherland 'A', relegated last season from Division 2, but when they met the other relegated team, Anfield 'A', in their third match, another 6-4 defeat was the result. It's a pity that L. Rosenbloom, a member of last year's successful University side, will not be available regularly for Sefton, with whom he is now registered.

Linnets 'A' now include Ron McEvoy (ex Wavertree Labour) and H. Holmes (late of Lussac), and I wouldn't be surprised to see them challenging for a top position before many weeks are over.

At the other end of the table,

both Balfour 'B' and Cadwa 'A' seem to be in for a tough time. Already Cadwa 'A', to my knowledge, have used nine players in three matches—a sure sign of a struggling team. Brian Leeson

* * * *

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L.P.A.S. A	6	6	0	0	43	17	12
Linnet B	6	5	1	0	48	12	10
L'pool C.C.	5	4	1	0	40	10	8
Bath St. B	6	4	2	0	34	26	8
W'loo Pk A	6	3	2	1	32	28	7
Litherland B	6	3	2	1	31	29	7
W'loo Dk A	6	3	3	0	27	33	6
Wvrtree Lab	6	3	3	0	27	33	6
Bootle YMC	6	2	4	0	16	44	4
Vic. Park D	5	1	3	1	24	26	3
Anfield B	6	0	4	2	26	34	2
Oakhill B	6	0	4	2	16	44	2
Cadwa B	6	0	5	1	16	44	1

THE story in this Division seems to be following the same pattern as has been the case in the lower divisions in the past few years, namely the monopoly of whatever division has contained them, by Wavertree Labour and Liverpool Cricket Club. One wonders at the progress of these two teams. Is it a tribute to their strength, or is it due to the deterioration of Clubs of once high standard?

Although the Wavertree team is that of last season, apart from their bleeding of young players at number 5, the Cricket Club have temporarily lost the more than useful services of McIntosh. This loss has been somewhat countered by the signing of the ex Harold House player Barry Jacobs. It is interesting also to see the name of the well-known veteran Freddie Bamford on their books. The clash between these two teams went the inevitable way with the Labour Club coming out victorious 8-2, Les Lewis winning both for the Cricket Club, with one particularly good win over the rarely beaten Eddie Moran. Only three of the sets went to three! It seems a tragedy that this powerful Wavertree combination should have stayed their invincible progress through the League by their own, apparently frivolous and thoughtless actions.

Around the Divisions—continued

At the other end of the table, Litherland 'B' and Bootle Y.M. 'C' who were saved from the "drop" by teams fading away between seasons, are faring little better than last year.

Len Davies

* * * *

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool P.O.	6	5	0	1	45	15	11
Nalگو	6	5	1	0	44	16	10
Rafters C.	6	5	1	0	41	19	10
St. Ed. O.B.	6	3	1	2	40	20	8
Beauclair A.	6	3	2	1	42	18	7
L'pool YM C	7	2	2	3	39	31	7
Bohs. C.	5	3	2	0	28	22	6
Fairlawn A.	6	3	3	0	27	33	6
Btle Nalگو	6	2	3	1	25	35	5
W'loo Pk B	7	2	5	0	32	38	4
Wav. Lab. A	5	2	3	0	17	33	4
Dom. Miss.	6	0	6	0	8	52	0
Fairlawn B.	6	0	6	0	2	58	0

SOME interesting and dour struggles have been enjoyed in this Division so far. Wavertree Labour 'A' are setting a hot pace, taking over the mantle of their first team, and at the time of going to press Liverpool Post Office are their closest challengers. The other promoted Clubs are not finding the going too easy. It would appear at this early stage of the season that the Division is going to be dominated by three or four teams with the relegation issue concerning some five or six clubs. Waterloo Park have some promising young players, and it is to be hoped that early defeats will not discourage them.

An interesting encounter took place at NALGO recently, when Ron Evans, the Club Captain, narrowly defeated C. Ward in the 7-3 win over Bohemians 'C'. Charlie Ward, who is playing well on his return to Bohemians, was NALGO's Captain last year!

An unpleasant note has already been struck on occasion this season, by the discourtesy and lack of sportsmanship of a certain minority of players. They do nothing to enhance the reputation of their Clubs. The evening, irrespective of result, can be enjoyed if the spirit

of the game is maintained. Newly promoted St. Edwards O.B. are particularly to be commended on the attitude of their players, win or lose. Let us remember that "the game's the thing" and so avoid indulgence in petty behaviour. May those to whom these remarks apply duly amend their ways.

Les Harper

* * * *

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Eng. Elec. A	8	6	0	2	57	23	14
Crawfords	7	6	0	1	57	13	13
Crawfords A	7	6	1	0	51	19	12
L'pool CC A	7	5	0	2	48	22	12
University A	9	4	4	1	47	43	9
Stanley H.	7	4	2	1	31	29	9
Nalگو A	7	4	3	0	36	34	8
Eng. Elec. B	6	3	3	0	32	28	6
Bath St. C.	6	3	3	0	27	33	6
L.P.A.S. B.	7	2	4	1	36	34	5
Beauclair B.	8	1	7	0	26	54	2
Rafters D.	6	1	5	0	23	37	2
Wav. Lab. B	7	0	7	0	8	62	0
Anfield C.	6	0	6	0	1	59	0

OUT of the preliminary skirmishes English Electric 'A' alone have survived with full points. No doubt Crawfords and Cricket Club will try to end this situation as soon as possible though. These two—obviously top of the division sides—fought a great 5-5 draw. Wood and Benson were tops for Crawfords with two wins each, while the Cricket Club proved their all round ability with one set apiece. The local derby at English Electric finished as expected, with the seniors winning 8-2. At two sets all the atmosphere was quite "Electric"! Manchester is the sole survivor of last year's 'A' team. Davies and Dorricot spiked the big guns with one win each.

Catterson and Evans were the stars for the Police in the closest game to date—a 6-4 win over Rafters—six of the sets going to three. Also in the 6-4 group was an English Electric 'B' win over Wavertree Labour, Dorricot and Gilmour scoring doubles for their respective sides, and Bath Street's win over Beauclair with Rawlinson and Connell taking the honours for the winners, and Grieve with a convincing two for the losers.

Around the Divisions—continued

Should have been an early night at the University, with all sets going to two.

Watch the handbook alteration!
Jack Lambert

* * * *

Division 7

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool CC B	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Linnet C	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
University B	6	3	0	3	44	16	9
Tech. Studs	7	4	2	1	45	25	9
Brenka	4	4	0	0	37	3	8
Colonsay	6	4	2	0	36	24	8
Crawfords B	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
Lewis's	8	3	4	1	39	41	7
Oakhill C	6	1	3	2	26	34	4
Linnet D	6	2	4	0	23	37	4
Wav. Lab. C	6	2	4	0	15	45	4
Bootle YM D	6	1	5	0	20	40	2
Cath. Met.	6	0	6	0	11	49	0

THIS could prove to be a very well-matched divisions. There is not much to choose between many of the teams, and I wouldn't like to say who will end up at the top. Brenka, with several of last season's so successful side, should do quite well, also Linnets 'C' who have made a very good start, will be formidable opposition. Both Crawfords 'B' and Liverpool C.C. 'B' have started well, while Tech. Students and University 'B' are "dark horses"

The only new Club, Catholic Metro, would meet with more success if they played their strongest available side, instead of which, they are (sportingly) giving a game to everyone registered for them. However, I shall be surprised if they don't cause some upsets before long.

Good individual performances have been recorded by two team skippers. R. McNaghten, at No. 1 for Lewis's v Liverpool C.C. 'B' got his side's only two events. This is the second time that he has done this to the Cricket Club—last season inflicting the same punishment on members of their 'A' team. Give that man an Oscar! The second was Harry Nelson (Colonsay), who won his two sets at No. 2, when his team went down 3-7 to Tech. Students. A. S. Barnard of Linnets 'D' has achieved several notable wins, and I think he will win far more than he loses in this sphere.

G. B. Watt of Crawford 'B', has been doing well also.

Between now and the next issue of the *Digest* there will be several exciting matches, so remember to be on time, and to make certain that your handbooks are correctly amended.

Norman Nelson

* * * *

Division 8

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Malayan Coll	5	5	0	0	48	2	10
Lowlands	4	3	1	0	24	16	6
St. Leonards	4	3	1	0	21	19	6
Burlington	5	3	2	0	25	25	6
Eng. Elec. C	5	2	3	0	23	27	4
L'pool CC C	3	1	1	1	18	12	3
Ches. Lines	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Linnet E	4	0	4	0	8	32	0
Lucem A	3	0	3	0	4	26	0

IHARDLY know what there is to write about this Division this season, so few are matches played to date. Already the number of teams left out of the original fourteen is NINE. Five have left us before we have even got to know them.

The position is not quite so bad for teams such as Linnets 'B' and English Electric 'C', for these players can often get games as reserve for their Club's higher teams, but it is far from encouraging for the members of a Club such as St. Leonards and Malayan College, who have only the one team, and whose members are now deprived of nearly half of their matches.

With the reduction and consequent "scrubbing" of matches, there have been so few results that it leaves little to say. However, it is clear that Malayan College are far and away too strong for our lowly Division, having won three matches 10-0 with the loss of a single game (even this by a reserve).

I only hope that no more teams decide to drop out, or there will be so little interest left that the division may as well pack up for the season.

George Morgan

WOMENS' DIVISIONS

(by EILEEN MANSELL)

Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P.
Bohs.	5	5	0	0	45	5	10
Oakhill	6	4	1	1	41	19	9
Cadwa	5	4	1	0	37	13	8
Rafters	6	3	1	2	36	24	8
Linnet	6	2	3	1	23	37	5
Bibbys	3	2	1	0	20	10	4
Cadwa A	5	1	3	1	19	31	3
Bath St.	6	1	5	0	20	40	2
Orrell	5	1	4	0	12	38	2
Huntley & P	4	0	3	1	5	35	1

Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P.
Crawfords . . .	4	4	0	0	37	3	8
L'pool C.C. . .	4	3	1	0	28	12	6
Rafters A . . .	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
Bohs. A	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
Bath St. A . . .	5	2	3	0	22	28	4
Bibbys A	4	1	3	0	16	24	2
Btle Nalgo . . .	4	1	3	0	10	30	2
Tech. Studs. . .	3	0	3	0	1	29	0

I WOULD like to extend a warm welcome to all the new lady players who have joined the League this season. May they enjoy all their matches, win or lose, and continue their association with us for many years to come.

Unfortunately the number of teams entered was too large for one division, and so have been split into two. As this makes each division rather small, it is impossible for each Club to have a match every week, but I am sure that if Clubs approached each other, friendly matches could be arranged, so that each team could get a few more matches than already allocated. Perhaps even the men (if asked) would oblige occasionally with the odd match.

It is many years since Liverpool produced a lady International and at the present moment I cannot see them producing one for many years to come, but it is good to see that our most famous lady International of pre-war years has decided to take up her bat again. I am referring to Norah Norrish, who, in company with Anne Pollitt, Rita Doolan and Edie Malley, did so much to keep Liverpool in the forefront of pre-war table tennis. It has never been my pleasure to play her, but I have heard many glowing accounts of her truly wonderful defence, and I am sure that her experience will be of the greatest benefit to her team mates at Crawfords, and next season should see them in the first Division.

Congratulations to Moya Jones on being selected for Lancashire against Yorkshire, when she played with great success, winning the mixed doubles with Ron Alcock, and only narrowly losing to Kathy Best 19-21 in the third game. On her showing in this match, Moya was immediately chosen to play in the next two matches against Surrey and Middlesex, to be played in London early this month. May she have every success in these matches.

This season, as in nearly every other, sees some movement of players from one Club to another. Joyce Randall has signed for Bohemians. Lil Lacey of Orrel has signed for Bath Street and Waver-tree Labour have withdrawn their women's team, though the majority of their players have joined Crawfords. Amy Bell, however, decided to join Linnets, and will be a great asset to them. Terry McCabe, who was probably the first lady in Liverpool to use a sandwich bat, and who hasn't played in the League for a few seasons, has joined Bibbys, and should be a considerable help to them. She has played also in the Business Houses representative team.

Welcome back to Gloria Burns and Rosemary McMullen, who for family reasons were out of the game last season. Bluey and Pinky May have decided to help Rafters when required, when matches do not clash with those of their husbands. All these players should strengthen the Women's divisions this season.

Women's Divisions—continued

Unfortunately we have lost a few players. For family reasons Myra (Murphy) Lovelady, Doris D'Arcy, and Betty Black will not be taking part, but we hope that they will all make a welcome return next year. One thing is certain—Liverpool should be well supplied with junior stars in a few years time. We could certainly do with them. At the moment Judy Crafter is on her own, and when the time comes for the old timers to pack up I don't know what will happen to women's table tennis in Liverpool. So, all of you with young daughters, please give them every encouragement with a bat, so that our future may be assured.

The close season has seen one or two people getting down to serious practice. Amongst them Maureen Wilcock, who has developed a very nice defence, and is also attacking quite steadily. Her nerves will probably prove her chief concern. Mabel Francis has been training

hard, and will do even better than last year. Last month she cycled to Manchester to play in the North of England tournament, in which she did very well. She certainly has plenty of energy, which is sadly lacking in a lot of people today.

Judy Crafter has been chosen to play in her first representative game against Oldham, and we all hope that she will do well. Under her mother's captaincy I am sure that the 'A' team will do all in their power to keep well up the division.

The 1st Liverpool team has played Manchester, and unfortunately, as always, were well and truly beaten. The team must get down to some serious practice if they ever want to topple Manchester from their throne. As both the 1st and 'A' teams are in the same division it will be interesting to see how each team fares against the other. I am sure that both will give of their best.

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DONE FOR A BIT OF FUN

(by A. MONTGOMERY)

SOME ten years ago the *Digest* published a ranking list of the League's women players compiled unofficially by Des Loughrey, based on the previous season's play. Thinking that a second such effort was long overdue, I amused myself by studying last season's records, and drawing up a list as shown by results. It was an interesting study, and the result seemed to me to be sufficiently provocative to encourage its submission to the Editor.

It was not easy to separate players. Sometimes I found cases where "A" always seemed to beat "B", "B" beating "C" with equal ease, whilst "C" seemed to have no trouble in inflicting defeat on "A", so it is probably that placings here will cause much controversy.

The "rankings" are based on two main factors—League play records, and play in the "Closed", whilst consideration was also given to meritorious performances in the beating of a better player. An extra difficulty came in the cases of those women who only played in the mixed divisions, and here some sort of line had to be drawn between the relative strengths of divisions.

It was impossible to separate every player, so after the first 20 places the rest have been placed into three groups, A, B and C, in descending order of merit, players in each group seeming to be about

equal. I must emphasise that this list is ENTIRELY unofficial, and is submitted entirely as a basis for discussion. As Des Loughrey said ten years ago, "brickbats are to be hurled at my head alone". Should this list meet with relative equanimity, I hope to submit a similar list for the men for the next issue.

Women's Ranking 1960-61

1. M. Jones (Bohemians)
2. M. Willcox (Bohemians)
3. A. Carroll (Anfield)
4. E. Mansell (Balfour)
5. M. Francis (Oakhill)
6. J. Randall (Balfour)
7. R. Royle (Bibbys)
8. L. Rumjahn (Rafters)
9. K. Casselman (Rafters)
10. M. Lovelady (Rafters)
11. M. Harris (Linnets)
12. J. Reynolds (Rafters)
13. M. Cox (Wav. Lab.)
14. P. Lawrenson (Cadwa)
15. B. Black (Cadwa)
16. E. Loughrey (Rafters)
17. B. Taylor (Bath St.)
18. G. Rimmer (Lucem)
19. A. Bell (Wav. Lab.)
20. J. A. Crafter (Cadwa)

Group A—A. Allen (Oakhill), I. Crafter (Cadwa), D. D'Arcy (Rafters), D. Campbell (Bath St.), G. Greeley (Rafters), J. Newell (Bath St.), L. Robinson (Oakhill), L. Wynne (Linnets).

Continued on Page 15

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Management Committee Take Action

(by JOHN McKIM)

AT a recent meeting of the Management Committee, the following penalty was imposed upon the Wavertree Labour Club:—

They forfeit all home matches this season, and this includes matches already played.

To award 10-0 to their opponents.

Their entry in all Cup competitions this season is cancelled, and the secretary, J. Roberts, is suspended for the season.

The facts behind this decision are as follows:—

The Wavertree Labour admitted the following offences:—

To playing a 'B' team player under a 'C' team player's name.

To playing an unregistered player in the 'C' team under a 'C' team player's name.

To playing unregistered players on two further occasions under their own names.

The Committee discussed the penalty to be imposed very carefully, and we feel that our decision has been lenient, but effective; full suspension or expulsion was ruled out because of its after-effects.

The Wavertree Labour, if expelled, but accepted again for membership next year, would have to start with all four teams in Division 8, a farcical situation for them and the other teams in the Division.

Our decision, we feel, hits the Club where it hurts most; they are virtually barred from winning any honours this season, and their teams will have to fight to avoid relegation.

The suspension of J. Roberts was imposed not because he is secretary, but because he was Captain of the team on the two occasions on which players were played under false names.

MERSEYSIDE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

HERE are the results of this year's Merseyside Open:—

Men's Singles—

Semi-finals: J. Somogyi bt. M. Creamer 23/21, 12/21, 21/16.

J. Clayton bt. R. Allcock 16/21, 21/13, 21/10.

Final: J. Clayton bt. J. Somogyi 20/22, 21/18, 21/19.

Women's Singles—Final:

M. Shannan bt. L. Bell 21/17, 21/16.

Junior Boys Singles—Final:

D. Neale bt. M. Symonds 21/16, 13/21, 21/10.

Junior Girls Singles—Final:

L. Bell bt. L. Proudlock 21/5, 21/10.

Men's Doubles—Final:

B. D. Wright/A. Lindsay bt. J. Clayton/D. Schofield 21/17, 17/21, 21/18.

Women's Doubles—Final:

M. Shannon/A. Taft bt. M. Fry/L. Bell 21/18, 13/21, 21/18.

Mixed Doubles—Final:

B. D. Wright/M. Shannon bt. G. Livesey/D. Wright 21/18, 21/15.

Veterans Singles:

H. Spiers bt. H. M. Nixon 21/15, 21/10.

FOOTNOTE—Mr. Spiers won the Veterans only by courtesy of the Digest Editor, who was obliged to scratch!!

Continued from Page 14

Group B—G. Burns (Cadwa), J. M. Burton (Cadwa), L. Charlton (Rafters), A. Gee (Bohemians), E. Gleed (Bohemians), M. J. Willcock (Cadwa), E. L. Moore (Oakhill).

Group C—P. Brackley (Cadwa), M. Cant (Bibbys), B. Ellam (Bath Street), M. Gray (Huntley & Palmer), V. Gray (Bohemians), B. Horsley (Wav. Lab.), W. Illidge (Orrell), N. Lamb (Waterloo Dock), B. Murray (Bath Street), B. M. Topping (Liverpool C.C.), L. Upton (Orrell).

Financial Column

(by DON CAMERON - Hon. Treasurer)

ALTHOUGH each Club Secretary receives a copy of the accounts it is doubtful if every member is able to see them. For your information a summary of our Income and Expenditure for last season is set out below. Our Income has remained fairly constant, but our Expenditure again shows an increase especially in regard to higher telephone charges and the new levy of 6d. per head charged by the E.T.T.A., which has only been passed on to members this year.

Summary of Income and Expenditure 1960/61

	£		£
Printing and Stationery	25	Clubs Affiliation Fees	124
Telephones	67	Clubs Entrance Fees	2
Postages and Secretarial		Players Registration Fees	107
Expenses	47	Cup Fees	22
Handbook less Advertisements	29	Donations	7
Affiliation to E.T.T.A.	54	Fines	25
Affiliation to L.T.T.A.	7	Interest	15
Depreciation on Equipment ...	5		
Medals, etc.	32	Balance being excess of	
Expenses of 6 City Teams	53	Expenditure over Income ...	32
Sundry items	15		
	<u>£334</u>		<u>£334</u>
	£		£
Balance b/f.	32	Received from Eagle/Girl ...	11
Cost of Coaching	11	Profit on "Closed Champion-	
Presentations and Stamp		ships	8
Award of Merit	20	E.T.T.A. Supporters Club	
Loss on "Open Championships"	9	Draw	7
Loss on "Digest"	5	Balance being loss for season	51
	<u>£77</u>		<u>£77</u>

The financial outlook for this season is still gloomy even though you are now paying an extra 6d.—this only covers the levy made by the E.T.T.A. which amounts to £20. Printing has gone up quite appreciably, telephone charges are heavier and postages have also been increased. We can absorb losses for two or three more years but obviously cannot do so indefinitely—some means of raising revenue or increasing fees must be made.

To end on a more cheerful note this year's "Open" promises to be far more successful financially and should just about break even—or maybe a little profit may result!

If any member would like further clarification or information regarding the accounts I would be only too pleased to expound.