

Volume XII.
Number 2



TO
December 1961
Price 6d.
January 1962

**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

January, 1962

No. 2

EDITORIAL

THIS month we have received an interesting suggestion which we feel merits consideration. Broadly speaking, it is proposed that the League be reconstituted to comprise five Divisions, with the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth each sub-divided into parallel 'A' and 'B' sections.

The governing idea of having one Division of twelve teams as the First Division and thereafter two Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Divisions, is to enable newcomers to the Liverpool League to achieve First Division status in four years instead of eight, or more, as at present. Two teams would be relegated from the First Division and one from each of the two Second Divisions promoted. Thereafter the principle of two-up and two-down would apply.

Our correspondent goes on to suggest that the constitution of the new Divisions would be based on the end of season League Tables when the top ten teams of Division One, plus the two top teams of Division Two would comprise the new First Division.

The four bottom teams in the First Division, plus the remaining twelve of Division Two and the top eight of Division Three would be equally divided between sections 'A' and 'B' of the Second Division.

The Third, Fourth and Fifth Divisions would be completed on a similar basis.

In addition to the speeding up of promotion to the First Division for the better teams, the suggestion has additional merit in that the anomaly of having two teams from the same Club playing in the same Division of the League would be avoided in that they can both play in the same Division but in different sections. Collateral with this idea is a suggestion that there should be run in conjunction with the revised League a separate League composed of teams of three, each playing each other with one doubles game, as is applicable in the Lancashire League. The suggestion is that each Club be allowed to enter one team only, conditional upon its having at least one team in the League proper.

It is further suggested that the three-a-side matches be played only on Friday nights.

Well, there it is—a suggestion containing a good deal of original thought. What do YOU think about it? Please write and tell us.

Leading Averages

(based on cards received relating to the first ten weeks of the season)

NOTE:—While 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.

NOTE:—Not enough matches have been played to make the Doubles records interesting.

DIVISION 1	P	W	%
E. Mandaluff (L'pool Y.M.'A')	22	22	100.00
*A. C. Taylor (Rafters)	20	20	100.00
*R. E. Gunnion (Btle Y.M.)	24	23	95.83
*N. R. Jones (Balfour)	20	19	95.00
*P. D'Arcy (L'pool Y.M.)	24	22	91.66
*R. M. Rumjahn (Rafters)	22	19	86.36
I. C. Coveney (L'pool Y.M.)	26	22	84.61
D. Ferguson (Rafters)	24	20	83.33
*N. R. Jones (Linnets)	18	15	83.33
P. U. Rumjahn (Rafters)	22	18	81.81
G. H. E. Birch (Btle Y.M.)	24	19	79.16
G. K. Smith (L'pool Y.M.)	24	19	79.16

DIVISION 2	P	W	%
A. Williams (Btle Y.M.'A')	24	22	91.66
*A. Heyes (Lucern)	18	16	88.88
*R. Eden (Cadwa)	18	16	88.88
W. Murray (Bath St 'A')	14	12	85.71
K. Gaulton (Balfour 'A')	12	10	83.33
*M. Truman (Vic. Pk. 'A')	22	18	81.81
G. Carroll (Vic. Pk. 'A')	22	17	77.27
J. Robinson (R.A.F.A.)	22	17	77.27
I. Brierley (Bohemians 'A')	20	15	75.00
M. Travis (Cadwa)	12	9	75.00

DIVISION 3	P	W	%
F. Phevey (E.E.C.)	24	21	87.50
*I. R. Green (Linnets 'A')	20	17	85.00
*F. Lacey (Linacre)	20	17	85.00
R. B. Gould (Linnets 'A')	12	10	83.33
A. Roberts (L'pool Y.M.'B')	24	18	75.00
*E. Smitton (E.E.C.)	24	18	75.00
W. I. Lamb (Rafters 'B')	26	19	73.07
A. Watson (Sefton)	22	16	72.72
P. Whalley (Fairlawn)	22	16	72.72
I. Bowden (Rafters 'B')	28	20	71.42
*R. Charlton (Rafters 'B')	28	20	71.42

DIVISION 4	P	W	%
M. Griffiths (L'pool C.C.)	12	12	100.00
W. C. Leeming (Linnets 'B')	14	13	92.85
*B. Jacobs (L'pool C.C.)	26	24	92.30
I. Grimshaw (Linnets 'B')	18	16	88.88
*L. Lewis (L'pool C.C.)	26	23	88.38
K. Dutch (Linnets 'B')	14	12	85.71
R. Burge (L'pool C.C.)	14	12	85.71
F. Bamford (L'pool C.C.)	12	10	83.33
G. Nelson (L.P.A.S. 'A')	14	11	78.57
R. Reynolds (Bath St. 'B')	14	11	78.57

DIVISION 5	P	W	%
W. Shiel (L'pool P.O.)	20	19	95.00
*A. Campbell (L'pool P.O.)	20	18	90.00
*K. Harold (Beauclair 'A')	18	16	88.88
K. Casselman (Rafters 'C')	12	10	83.33
*C. Grimes (Beauclair 'A')	12	10	83.33
N. Barooah (Nalgo)	22	18	81.81
G. Phillips (Fairlawn 'A')	18	14	77.77
*M. Gallagher (Rafters 'C')	12	9	75.00
J. C. McKim (Beauclair 'A')	18	13	72.22

DIVISION 6	P	W	%
E. Amoo (Stanley House)	16	15	93.75
*I. Catterson (L.P.A.S. 'B')	26	24	92.30
*W. Wood (Crawfords)	22	20	91.11
*A. Harrison (Crawfords)	16	14	87.50
*P. Cox (Crawfords)	22	19	86.36
*A. Lyn (Stanley House)	18	15	83.33
B. M. Topping (L.C.C.'A')	16	13	81.25
A. Thatcher (Crawfords 'A')	24	19	79.16
R. Meredith (L.C.C. 'A')	18	14	77.77
R. Conley (Crawfords 'A')	22	17	77.27

DIVISION 7	P	W	%
B. Rockliffe (Brenka)	20	20	100.00
A. Guy (Brenka)	20	19	95.00
D. Spencer (Brenka)	14	13	92.85
A. Crawshaw (Tech. Stud.)	16	14	87.50
*W. Miller (Brenka)	12	10	83.33
K. Dutch (Linnets 'C')	16	13	81.25
A. Trevor (Linnets 'C')	20	26	80.00
*A. S. Barnard (Linnets 'D')	14	11	78.57
*P. K. Meyer (Linnets 'C')	18	14	77.77
J. Casson (University 'B')	12	9	75.00

DIVISION 8	P	W	%
*Chin Wool Sen (Malay Coll)	16	16	100.00
*Lau Kong Bin (Malay Coll)	14	14	100.00
Eu Ah Choo (Malay Coll)	12	12	100.00
Robert Teoh (Malay Coll)	16	15	93.75
*W. Dignan (C.L.C.)	10	9	90.00
M. King (L.C.C. 'C')	12	10	83.33
Dzulkiifi (Malay Coll)	16	13	81.25

WOMEN—DIV. 1	P	W	%
*M. Wilcox (Bohemians)	16	15	93.75
*M. Jones (Bohemians)	12	11	91.66
*R. Royle (Bibbys)	16	14	87.50
*T. McCabe (Bibbys)	14	12	85.71
I. Randall (Bohemians)	14	12	85.71
*M. Francis (Oakhill)	16	13	81.25
G. Burns (Cadwa)	18	14	77.77
L. Wynne (Linnets)	14	10	71.42
*E. Loughrey (Rafters)	10	7	70.00

WOMEN—DIV. 2	P	W	%
*M. Cox (Crawfords)	10	10	100.00
N. Ford (Crawfords)	10	10	100.00
*I. Horsley (Crawfords)	10	10	100.00
*M. King (L'pool C.C.)	12	12	100.00
*B. M. Topping (L'pool CC)	12	12	100.00
*T. Uytendahl (Bibbys 'A')	18	8	80.00
P. Cassidy (Bohemians 'A')	12	9	75.00

23rd MERSEYSIDE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1961

HON. REFEREE'S REPORT (by Brian Leeson)

THE Championships were held at Dunlops on Friday and Saturday the 10th and 11th November 1961. The increase in entries made it possible to have play on the Friday evening, compared with the previous two Championships when only Saturday play was necessary.

On the Friday evening 60 events were played out of a scheduled 65 (5 scratchings being recorded). Play began at approx. 7.15 p.m., and the final event was completed at 10.30 p.m.

The Saturday play saw 301 events completed, 32 more than last year. There were actually 325 scheduled events but 24 scratchings were necessary. The closing events of the mixed doubles, unfortunately, were long drawn out affairs, delaying the start of the finals beyond the anticipated time; it was not until 8.30 p.m. that they managed to get under way.

It is true to say that apart from the few matches which caused delay, all events continued smoothly throughout the day. All tables were in use more or less continuously, except for a brief period during the men's lunch time.

It seems, however, that serious thought will have to be given to the restriction of entries if future Finals are to start at 7.30 p.m. promptly.

No complaints were received this year about the legality of certain types of bats, although Miss M. Fry, the official E.T.T.A. representative apparently noticed that one or two players were using bats with inverted rubber, and rather shiny surfaces. The Referee, not being able to notice these miscreants from the platform asked the hard-worked Captain of Umpires, Mr. A. Gould, to send such offenders to the Referee for admonishment. None arrived.

The system used by the platform staff, involving the calling on of sets and the recording of finished events, was entirely that developed by the previous Referee, Mr. R. Hebson. The only difference this

year was that two people i.e. the Referee and Mr. J. Green, the Assistant Referee, sat throughout the day at the platform desk with the complete picture of the Tournament state clearly in front of them. The only relief either had was when Mr. Hebson kindly took over his own system during the lunch period. In previous years, three or more people had taken it in turn to do this work and it is pleasing to be able to report that despite there being only two on duty there was no delay in the progress of play.

The system of signalling when a table was available (by the employment of Progress Chasers) was quite a success, and the Referee thanks the following for their valuable help: Mrs. Crafter, Messrs. R. Crafter, A. R. Green, R. Gunnion, Murgatroyd of the Manchester League, and G. Fackrell, Secretary of the Warrington League. There is plenty of room for improvement in the supervision of tables however, but the problem of finding suitable and reliable helpers to act as progress chasers remains. The Captain of Umpires, Mr. A. Gould, performed his duties most satisfactorily under these difficult conditions and has the Referee's thanks for his efforts.

Indeed, a "thank you" must be given to all who gave their assistance in the running of the tournament, in particular to Miss M. Lindner, whose reproval of players late to the table was at times harsh but always necessary, and to Mr. J. Green, the Assistant Referee, whose patience and steady hand helped in the smooth running of the platform organisation. Thanks are due, also, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Ellison for performing the endless task of keeping the wall charts up to date, and to the catering staff, especially Mrs. Sturgeon and Mrs. Hughes for a job well done.

We were all pleased to welcome our President, Mr. J. K. Hyde, to the Finals in the evening, when he very kindly presented prizes to the winners.

NOW THE MEN ARE LISTED

THIS month we present an entirely unofficial "ranking list" of men in the League, compiled, as was that of the women, on last season's match play and performance in the "Closed Championships". Several notable names, among them being Ted Rumjahn and Bill Pierce, have made insufficient appearances to justify their inclusion, and have consequently been omitted. Obviously, it would have been preferable to have included all registered players but we felt it unfair on those who seldom play although their ability cannot be questioned.

Comment on our List is expected to be both pungent and personal—one of the pleasures of doing something "just for fun"—but don't be frightened to tell us what you think—our skins are pretty thick!

1. R. E. Gunnion (Bootle Y.M.C.A.)
2. A. C. Taylor (Rafters)
3. N. Roy Jones (Linnets)
4. R. M. Rumjahn (Rafters)
5. Norman R. Jones (Balfour)
6. V. Chesham (Bohemians)
7. D. Ferguson (Rafters)
8. W. Allanson (Bootle Y.M.C.A.)
9. A. Lawson (Anfield)
10. B. Hand (Bohemians)
11. D. M. Hobbs (Linnets)
12. R. Harrison (Rafters)
13. L. Mulholland (Balfour)
14. E. Clein (Victoria Park)
15. R. Owen (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.)
- 16.) H. Wilcock (Balfour)
-) A. Jones (Rafters)
- 18.) R. Hetherington (Balfour)
-) L. Davies (Balfour)
20. J. C. Seddon (Waterloo Dock)

Group A. J. Ball (Bootle Y.M.C.A.), G. Bradley (Vic. Park), J. Brownlee (Bootle Y.M.C.A.), D. Butterworth (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.), K. Chambers (Balfour), P. Darcy (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.), R. Eden (Cadwa), D. Gunson (Bohemians), W. Harris (Oakhill), J. Higham (Oakhill), R. Hudson (Victoria Park), E. Mandaluff (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.), W. Ramsdale (Oakhill), D. Rigby (Beauclair), I. Rogerson (Boo Y.M.C.A.), P. U. Rumjahn (Rafters), L. T. Sille (Wat. Dock), G. K. Smith (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.), D. Tarr (Wat. Dock), M. Wallace (Balfour).

Group B. E. Barnes (Anfield), W. Bintley (Anfield), A. Byrne (Wat. Dock), G. H. E. Birch (Bootle Y.M.C.A.), W. Clayton (Litherland), J. C. Coveney (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.), E. Davies (Linnets), A. Gould (Bath St.), H. Johnstone (Anfield), K. Jones (Bohemians), F. Lacey (Linacre), J. Robinson (RAFA), K. Rawlinson (Bohemians), P. Short (Rafters), M. Truman (Vic. Park), D. Wildblood (Bohs.), K. Wright (Beauclair).

Group C. E. Anderson (Litherland), R. Blackmore (Rafters), E. Briscoe (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.), J. R. Green (Linnets), R. Gray (Anfield), P. Hurworth (Wav. Lab.), T. Killip (Litherland), R. Keddie (Bohemians), G. Sanders (Vic. Park), R. Smith (L'pool Y.M.C.A.), W. Tobin (Rafters), A. Williams (Boo Y.M.C.A.), L. G. Burrows (Waterloo Dock), J. Lovelady (Rafters), H. McMillan (RAFA), J. Rimmer (Lucem), J. Stewart (Boo Y.M.C.A.).

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Busy Time for Management Committee

(by JOHN MCKIM)

THE first half of the season has been a busy time for the Management Committee. We have, unfortunately, had to consider four very controversial cases, one of which eventually went to the Board of Appeal.

You will probably have read in the local Press of the incident concerning the Balfour club, and full details of the Wavertree Labour case were given in the last *Digest*.

The other two cases concerned (a) an application for registration which we had to refuse at first because of an allegation against the player concerned, by his previous club, and (b) requests for transfers put forward by four members of Wavertree Labour Club.

In the case of (a) we discussed the matter fully at two meetings and after interviewing the player and the club involved, we decided to allow the registration.

In the case of (b) we did not see fit to grant the requests for transfers by the four Wavertree Labour players, and they subsequently took the matter to the Board of Appeal, whose decision was that the transfers should NOT be granted. As a matter of interest this is the third case which has gone before the Appeal Board in the last three years. Two appeals have been upheld, and this last one rejected.

The decisions we have made on these cases, particularly those of Wavertree Labour and Balfour, have met with varied comments. I have been told that we are too severe. I have been told that we are far too lenient. And believe it or not, I have even been told that our decisions were correct.

The Committee arrived at these decisions after much discussion and at times heated argument, and believe that they have done the best thing possible in the interests of League members as a whole. Whether or not we have succeeded in pleasing you we shall doubtless find out in May of this year.

GAPS IN THE RULES

Speaking of May, and the Annual General Meeting, it does seem to me (and I know other members of the Committee who share the view) that there is a large gap in the rule covering penalties. There are many breaches of the rules which are not, to my mind, adequately dealt with by a £1 fine, but which do not merit suspension (for any period of time) or expulsion. Perhaps those of you who support our A.G.M. may like to give this matter a little thought before then.

We are staging a Junior County Match in Liverpool on Friday, 2nd March—**Lancashire v Durham**, at the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. If you are free on that night, your attendance will encourage the youngsters, who, I am sure, will make the journey worth while.

In conclusion, may I express the hope that, with the co-operation of all members, by playing within the rules, both written and un-written, the Committee will have a much less onerous second half to this season. We do not wish to shirk our responsibilities in any way, but we do not like having to penalise clubs or players as this unavoidably leads to a certain amount of bad feeling, which is the very thing we are working to remove from Table Tennis in Liverpool.

Around the Divisions

(by our Special Correspondents)

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool YM	13	11	1	1	97	33	23
Rafters . . .	12	10	0	2	93	27	22
Bootle YM	12	9	2	1	85	35	19
L'pl YM A	13	7	3	3	80	50	17
Balfour . . .	10	8	2	0	70	30	16
Bohemians	13	7	6	0	61	69	14
Oakhill . . .	10	6	4	0	52	48	12
Vic. Park . .	12	5	7	0	54	66	10
Wat. Dock	13	4	7	2	56	74	10
Anfield . . .	13	4	7	2	53	77	10
Rafters A	11	3	6	2	39	71	8
Litherland	12	1	10	1	36	84	3
Linnets . . .	12	0	10	2	35	85	2
Bath St. . .	12	1	11	0	29	91	2

I WAS taken to task for my opening comments last month, being assured that Liverpool Y.M. would be well in the running for the championship this year—needless to say by Y.M. members. Events seem to be proving them right though, for they are only one point behind Rafters after 12 matches, with Bootle Y.M. falling away pretty badly. Bootle may find that the loss of Gunnion will be too big a handicap in the second half, but their colleagues from Mount Pleasant are in full cry in their stead. Which proves me a horrible prophet, but adds spice to the season. And the recent shuffle of players, with Turtle and Roy Smith replacing Clewett and Coveney might turn the scale in their favour. But why Ted Mandaluff, the only 100% player left in the division is still in the "stiffs" only the Y.M. know. Ted and Peter D'Arcy are probably the two most improved players in this division this season.

At the nether end, Bath Street won their first match of the season against a weakened Anfield team, but remain bottom. Linnets (2 points) come next, and Litherland (3) a cat's whisker ahead. These two may have been reversed had not Roy Jones gone to the wrong club when Linnets visited Litherland—the loss of his two sets making the result a draw. With 8 points each come Victoria Park and Anfield, and though they have this advantage, they must grab

every available point in the second half, for the dog fight is on, and the bottom three do not intend to go down without a fight.

The two promoted teams, Waterloo Dock and Rafters "A" have collected enough points to clear their minds of worry, which is practically unique for newly promoted teams. Jack Seddon has made his mark on the division, with Peter D'Arcy and Roy Jones among his victims.

Bohemians are the season's puzzle. On paper they must have one of the strongest teams in this League for some years, yet they have turned in some in-and-out performances. They can have a big part in the eventual outcome of the championship, however, if they all hit form on the same night. The signing of Eric Davies may strengthen the tail and give it a more healthy wag.

Jim Green

* * * *

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Cadwa . . .	13	9	3	1	79	51	19
Vic.Park A	12	8	1	3	69	51	19
BtleYM A	12	9	3	0	83	37	18
Bohs A . . .	13	7	3	3	81	49	17
L.P.A.S. . .	13	8	4	1	74	56	17
Balfour A	11	7	2	2	66	44	16
Beauclair . .	13	3	4	6	66	64	12
Vic.Park B	12	5	5	2	54	66	12
R.A.F.A. . .	12	5	6	1	64	56	11
Lucem . . .	13	5	7	1	64	66	11
Wat. Park	13	5	8	0	52	78	10
University	13	3	9	1	42	88	7
Bath St. A	13	2	9	2	47	83	6
Oakhill A . .	13	0	12	1	39	91	1

TO all players in the Division may I extend best wishes for the New Year.

This Digest should show a few changes in the League table. To start at the top—L.P.A.S.—what a change for them. They have collapsed somewhat, losing three and drawing one since the last issue. Bracewell seems to be their most improved player with good victories over Snyder and Carroll.

Around the Divisions—continued

Balfour 'A' have lost one and drawn two. Eileen Mansell once more demonstrated her ability with a good win over Bob Mason at Victoria Park. Neither Miss Mansell nor Mrs. Randall have yet lost two in one match. Steady play.

Victoria Park 'A' have dropped some more points, two at Lucem when Heyes beat both Mason and Truman in straight games. Lucem come up occasionally with good wins such as that against Victoria Park. Heyes must be regarded as the "anchor man" of the side, and there will be few No. 1's with a better record than he has at the end of the season. In passing may it be noted that Lucem are one of the more pleasant teams to play against.

At the other end Oakhill 'A' seem doomed already. Only one point gained. It seems too late for a rally. Waterloo Park and Beauclair have collected more points—Park 6 (2 from Police) and Beauclair 8 since the last issue. Beauclair must be the 'Draw Champions' of the division with four in the last few matches.

University have recently failed to appear for their games on two occasions, awarding Balfour 'A' and Bath Street 'A' walk-overs. While sympathising with the difficulties of the Students, it seems tough to allow their opponents to turn up and then not get a game.

Don Gauld

* * * *

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Rafters B	12	10	2	0	82	38	20
Linnet A	13	9	2	2	81	49	20
L'pl YM B	13	9	2	2	78	52	20
Fairlawn	12	9	2	1	82	38	19
Linacre	12	7	4	1	73	47	15
Eng. Elect.	13	6	5	2	65	65	14
Sefton	12	5	6	1	66	54	11
Bohs B	13	4	6	3	60	70	11
Anfield A	13	5	7	1	55	75	11
Lithrind A	12	4	7	1	54	66	9
Vic.Park C	13	3	7	3	53	75	9
Balfour B	12	4	8	0	40	80	8
Btle YM B	12	3	9	0	46	74	6
Cadwa A	12	0	11	1	33	87	1

(Note.—Balfour 'B' suspended for second half of season.)

THE four most successful players in Division 3 League matches to date seem to be J. R. Green (Linnets), F. Lacey (Linacre), F. Pheysey (Eng. Elec.) and R. Goldson (Liverpool Y.M.).

Jimmy Green lost in October to R. Thomas at Bohemians, but since then he has been winning regularly, until Pheysey narrowly beat him on English Electric's table.

F. Lacey has lost only twice in the League—against Smitton of English Electric and against B. Leeson at Fairlawn.

Pheysey admits to three defeats—at the hands of Caird (Rafters), Jackson (Anfield) and Ken Jones (Linnets).

Goldson also has suffered defeat only three times—against F. Rooney (Bohs.), and then twice in one match at Linnets against K. Jones and R. McEvoy.

Liverpool Y.M. 'B' are enjoying a good season. In addition to Goldson's successes, Arthur Roberts is continuing to play well, and is winning fairly consistently. This Y.M. team will certainly be among the leaders when the season is completed.

One result which must influence the final placings will surely be Linnets beating the Rafters 'B' side at Bentley Road by 7 sets to 3. This was Rafters first defeat of the season, and was also notable for the double defeat of Caird and Bowden. For Linnets Gould and Underhill recorded double wins. This result must have had some effect on the Rafters team for the next week they lost again, this time at Sefton by 7-3.

Victoria Park's 'C' team have been struggling hard to gain enough league points to make their position safe. Their second win came when they defeated the bottom team, Cadwa 'A', by the decisive margin of 8-2, and the following week they further eased their position by winning one point at Bohemians. S. Harvey and J. Mangnall won all their four events in these two matches.

Brian Leeson

Around the Divisions—continued

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Linnet B .	12	9	2	1	80	40	19
L'pool CC	10	9	1	0	88	12	18
L.P.A.S. A	11	9	2	0	69	41	18
Bath St. B	11	7	4	0	65	45	14
Wat.ParkA	12	6	5	1	66	54	13
Vic.Park D	11	5	5	1	59	51	11
WvtreeLab	10	5	5	0	42	58	10
Oakhill B .	11	4	5	2	48	62	10
Btle YM C	12	4	7	1	49	71	9
Wat.DockA	11	3	7	1	42	68	7
LithrInd B	12	3	8	1	37	83	7
Anfield B .	11	1	7	3	43	66	5
Cadwa B .	12	2	9	1	51	78	5

NOW that we are turning into the home run this Division is developing into a three horse race, with the Cricket Club possibly a slight favourite. The pace they are setting can be judged by the fact that in their nine victories they have only conceded four sets—three of them by reserves.

An interesting point arises in that the penalising of Wavertree Labour Club could, inadvertently, be to the detriment of the Cricket Club, for before their case was heard by the League the Cricket Club had gone down 8-2 to the Labour Club, whereas Linnets and the Police had not then met them on their own tables.

Since then four of the Labour Club team have left, which, obviously, means that Linnets and the Police have a good chance of picking up two points from a weakened Wavertree Labour side, thus narrowing the gap between themselves and the Cricket Club.

At the foot of the table the luckless Anfield and Cadwa 'B' sides have done little to pull themselves from the relegation zone, both managing only one win apiece. Apart from a sensational revival the prospect of Division 5 still hangs over them.

Oakhill 'B' have shown rare fight and by snatching six points from their last four games have hauled themselves five places up the table.

It is a distressing commentary of the times that in a Division like this, walk-overs appear with monotonous regularity due to teams

turning up players short. Last season the epidemic was late arrivals, this season players are going one better by not arriving at all. Len Davies

* * * *

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool PO	11	10	0	1	85	25	21
Rafters C .	11	9	2	0	75	35	18
Fairlawn A	12	9	3	0	76	44	18
Beauclair A	12	7	3	2	85	35	16
St. Eds. OB	11	5	3	3	70	40	13
Nalgo . . .	11	6	4	1	65	45	13
Bohs C . .	11	5	5	1	59	51	11
L'pl YM C	12	4	5	3	62	58	11
Wav.Lab.A	12	5	7	0	41	79	10
Btle Nalgo	11	4	6	1	50	60	9
Wat.ParkB	11	3	8	0	43	67	6
Dom. Miss.	11	0	11	0	12	98	0
Fairlawn B	11	0	11	0	11	99	0

THE season has reached the half-way stage, and due to the suspension of Wavertree Labour in home matches, the issue appears to rest between Liverpool Post Office and Rafters 'C' for the Divisional Championship. These are strong and determined sides and will not easily be displaced from the top of the table. W. Shiel is particularly steady in the Post Office team and is ably supported. Mrs. Casselman and Mrs. Reynolds of Rafters always give their opponents a hard game. One interesting feature is that S. Edward's O.B. have taken points from both of the Divisional leaders.

One or two surprising results can be accounted for by reason of weakened sides or non-played matches due to illness or business commitments. Bootle Nalgo are particular sufferers in this respect for they have some very useful players. After a brisk opening spell, Nalgo have suffered three successive defeats, but C. Lambert is playing well, and has won ten out of his last twelve sets.

At the lower end of the table Domestic Mission won their first match by gaining a narrow 6-4 win over Fairlawn 'B'. Many promising young players are to be seen in

Around the Divisions—continued

these lower placed teams, particularly in Wavertree Labour 'A', Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and Waterloo Park. Whilst not reaching County or inter-city standards perhaps they will ultimately provide the hard core of the League in the future, without which the League could not survive, and the game we all enjoy so much would cease to exist as an organised sport in this age of so many non-active pastimes.

In conclusion I would like to wish a Happy New Year to all players in the Division, and hope that the second half of the season will be remembered for good play, good sportsmanship and good manners.

Les Harper

* * * *

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Crawfords .	12	10	0	2	98	22	??
L'pl CC A	12	10	0	2	95	25	22
Crwfrds A	13	11	2	0	93	37	??
Eng.Elec.A	13	9	1	3	90	40	21
StanleyHse	13	7	3	3	77	53	17
Eng.Elec.B	13	6	5	2	64	66	14
Unvrsty A	13	5	6	2	67	63	12
Nalgo A . .	13	6	7	0	56	74	12
Bath St. C	13	5	7	1	57	73	11
L.P.A.S. B	13	3	7	3	64	66	9
Rafters D .	12	3	8	1	54	66	7
Beauclair B	13	2	11	0	48	87	6
Wav.Lab.B	12	1	10	1	26	94	3
Anfield C .	13	0	13	0	1	129	0

CRICKET CLUB, Crawfords and English Electric 'A' are certainly setting a hot pace, all with draws against each other. Top marks to Stanley House for breaking up the happy party with a great draw against Electric. Lyn and Amoo were the stars, with two sets each.

A pat on the back to Carroll and Company (Anfield 'B') who are putting up a great battle to survive. May they have every success in the New Year.

The Crawfords "Derby" was a tough fight, with Thatcher, Benson and Conley winning the 'A' teams only sets. Conley missing a double by only 22-24 in the third.

Police, I feel, could be up with the leaders if they could only field their full strength regularly. As it

is. Catterson and his merry men have given all of the leading teams 6-4 frights.

Rafters pipped Beauclair in the relegation zone with doubles from Mrs. Loughrey, Harold Reynolds and Fred Winstanley. Ernie Sturgess, with one win and a loss at 20-22 in the third battled well for Beauclair. Three good draws—University v. Electric 'B' and Police, and Rafters v. Bath Street. Cockerill, Brinkler and Abbot registered doubles for University, Carter doing the same for Electric, and Catterson (as usual) and McLachlan for the Police. For Rafters Mrs. McMullan and Winstanley (again) were outstanding, and Pawlinson pulled out all the stops for Bath Street. Reed, of University, put up an excellent performance against Crawfords, winning his side's only two sets against that strong Crawfords pair Wood and Cox.

Jack Lambert

* * * *

Division 7

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Brenka . . .	12	12	0	0	98	22	24
Linnnet C .	11	10	1	0	78	32	20
L'pl CC B	11	9	2	0	74	36	18
Crwfrds B	10	5	3	2	52	48	14
Colonsay . .	12	7	5	0	70	50	14
Tech.Studs.	11	6	4	1	72	38	13
Unvrsty B	12	3	5	4	62	58	10
Lewis's . . .	12	3	6	3	56	64	9
Linnnet D .	11	4	7	0	46	64	8
Btle YM D	11	4	6	1	38	72	7
Oakhill C .	9	1	5	3	34	56	5
Wav.Lab.C	10	2	8	0	15	85	4
Cath. Met.	12	1	11	0	31	89	2

FOR the benefit of those who do not yet know, Colonsay have changed their clubroom—playing now at Brownmoor Park Lawn Tennis Club, Brownmoor Park, Brownmoor Lane, Great Crosby. Take any one of buses L2, L4, L85, L47 from Skelthorne Street to the Stuart Road/Endbutt Lane junction. Match night remains Wednesday.

After 12 matches Brenka and Linnets 'C' are the only unbeaten teams in the division. I am glad of this in one respect in that it bears

Around the Divisions—continued

out my statement in the last number that they would most likely be two of the best sides. What a match when they meet next week! Brenka not having lost (excepting in a Cup semi-final) since they re-entered the League at the beginning of last season, although some of the recent wins have been rather close. They are a team composed of players capable of playing No. 1, so they can't be trifled with. And Linnets 'C' seem to be equally solid throughout. It should be a very close affair, and my forecast is—a draw.

Technical Students have risen in the table, and seem to be vastly improved on last season. At the other end of the scale, Catholic Metro haven't managed to notch a win, excepting for the walk-over against Wavertree Labour, but who knows what the New Year will bring for them? Bootle Y.M.C.A. had a good win over Colonsay, the main architect of their success being K. Foulkes. Colonsay, who are playing at yet another venue, are unbeaten at home; away it is a very different picture—they haven't got a point since the opening match of the season.

Some of the best individual performances since the last issue of the *Digest* have been recorded by A. Crawshaw (Tech. Students) at No. 1 against Brenka when his side went down only 4-6, Norman Owens at No. 3 in the same team against Linnets 'C', and Ron Wearing, Catholic Metro's No. 4 against Liverpool C.C. 'B' when their respective sides lost 3-7. All got doubles. Norman Nelson

* * * *

Division 8

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Malayan Coll	7	7	0	0	65	5	10
St. Leonards	9	5	3	1	47	43	11
Burlington	8	5	2	1	43	37	11
L'pool CC C	7	4	2	1	43	27	9
Lowlands	6	4	2	0	30	30	8
Chesh. Lines	6	2	3	1	36	24	5
Eng. Elec. C	7	2	5	0	30	40	4
Linnets E	6	1	5	0	15	45	2
Lucem A	5	0	5	0	7	43	0
L'pool CC D	2	0	2	0	4	16	0

MALAYAN COLLEGE are going great guns at the top of the division with full points from matches played, and must be considered as dark horses for the Hyde Cup, in which they are due to meet Stanley House for a semi-final place. They carry good wishes from all in this division.

However, the Cricket Clubs 'C' team gave the College a bit of a tussle before going down 7-3. Eric Dorfman won his two sets, while Lau Kong Bin and Chin Wooi Sen each won two for their side. Three sets went to three, one at 22-20, the others to 18 and 17 respectively, all in favour of Malayan College, so a little luck at the right time may have supplied one of the seasons surprises. Lau Kong Bin, Chin Wooi Sen and Eu Ah Choo have all got (well justified) 100% records.

The next four teams are grouped together, but it seems most probable that Cricket Club 'C' will finish as runners-up. English Electric 'C' and Linnets 'E' have not had a good first half, but they should finish with enough points to be well clear of the bottom. At the bottom as I write we have Cheshire Lines, Lucem 'A' and Cricket Club 'D', but this latter team only entered the League a couple of weeks ago so it is too early to gauge their possibilities.

Some good individual performances have been put up. F. Ashcroft (Burlington) won both sets against each of the two Cricket Club teams, and A. Mathias registered two against each of Lowlands and English Electric, while A. Snape (Lucem 'A') won his side's only two sets against St. Leonards. Frank Crowther (Linnets 'E') has won 5 of the 6 sets he has played, and it is a great pity that his work prevents him from playing more often.

George Morgan

WOMENS' DIVISIONS

(by EILEEN MANSELL)

WOMEN'S DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Bohemians . . .	8	8	0	0	68	12	16
Cadwa	9	7	2	0	64	26	14
Rafters	7	4	1	2	43	27	10
Oakhill	8	4	3	1	49	31	9
Bibbys	7	3	3	1	38	32	7
Linnet	7	2	3	2	28	32	6
Bath Street . .	9	2	7	0	29	61	4
Orrell	6	2	4	0	18	42	4
Cadwa A	8	1	6	1	26	54	3
Huntley & P . .	4	0	3	1	5	35	1

WOMEN'S DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Crawfords . . .	6	6	0	0	56	4	12
L'pool CC . . .	6	5	1	0	44	16	10
Rafters A . . .	7	5	2	0	46	24	10
Bohs, A	7	4	3	0	39	31	8
Bath St. A . . .	7	4	3	0	38	32	8
Bibbys A	7	2	5	0	33	37	4
BootleNalgo . .	7	1	6	0	10	60	2
Tech. Studs . .	6	0	6	0	1	59	0

WITH the festive season well and truly behind us, all table tennis enthusiasts will be waiting to get on with the game. As I said in the last issue, it is very disappointing for the ladies to have so few matches to look forward to. Unfortunately, there isn't anything to be done about it this year, but I am sure that the Management will do all in their power to find a solution for next season. Interest certainly wanes when competitive play is curtailed. Several ladies are fortunate enough to play in the mixed divisions and the Business Houses, but for many it must be very frustrating to have a match only every two or three weeks unless (as suggested before) friendly matches can be arranged.

The first half of the season brought disappointment to some players while Dame Fortune smiled on others. Moya Jones' 100% record in the women's divisions for the past three seasons went by the board when she was beaten by Mabel Francis (Oakhill) in straight games in their Bartholomew Cup match. Mabel is playing extremely well and with added confidence, no doubt due to the many hours practice she puts in. She is, perhaps, the keenest lady player we have in the League, and by going the rounds of the tournaments and playing regularly in the Business Houses team in the Lancashire and Cheshire League, is coming up against all types of players, which is invaluable experience.

Moya is playing consistently well, although her position as No. 1

player is bound to have a psychological effect on her game. Muriel Willcox, who just pips Moya in sets average, is still proving to be much more difficult to play than appears from the side of the table. She is careful not to be pushed back from the table into a defensive position, although to my mind, if she were to develop a defence she would have better results in inter-city matches.

Congratulations to Judy Crafter on making a successful debut for Lancashire Juniors, thereby, I should think, securing a place for herself for the rest of the season. Perhaps we should not despair too much about the standard of our ladies. With Judy and Mabel (for instance) improving all the time, we may yet produce a team comparable with Manchester and Stockport. Looking well into the future, Rafters alone should provide some real talent! And, who knows, Bluey Casselman may encourage her delightful family and enter a team of her own!

We have five players with 100% records in the 2nd division. Crawfords and Liverpool C.C. are winning their matches very comfortably. It's good to see the Farrell twins, Sylvia and Hazel, playing again, and doing well for the Cricket Club. Barbara Topping, their No. 1, has one of the top averages, and with her good all-round game should give a good account of herself in the 1st division next year. The club can also boast a mother and daughter partnership playing for them,

Women's Divisions—continued

namely, Dawn and Wendy Lewis. Wendy will, I am sure, receive every encouragement not only from her mother, but also from her father, Leslie, who has been giving a good account of himself in the League for many years.

Joan Burton of Cadwa 'A' is a player who can easily be underestimated as she is not a spectacular type of player. She has developed quite a sound defensive game, which, together with an effective backhand, accounted for both Pauline Lawrenson and Judy Crafter in their derby match, to give her side their only two victories. Both sets went to three games, and since both Judy and Pauline are of city standard it was no mean achievement, and should give her added confidence.

Rafters only win against Bohs in their first meeting this season was in the doubles, when Bluey Casselmar and Gloria Greeley beat Joyce Randall and Audrey Gee. Rafters had a surprisingly good win over their close rivals Cadwa, 8-2. Elizabeth Loughrey accounted for Judy Crafter in straight games, Judy in turn beating Bluey, two straight,

and Bluey getting her revenge by similarly beating Pauline.

I can't see anyone stopping Bohs from winning the Bartholomew Cup or giving them the fright they had when only beating Oakhill 6-4 in the last round. Mabel was dynamite in beating Moya, as mentioned previously, also Joyce Randall in two straight, and together with Edna Moore she also won her doubles. Oakhill's other win was by Ann Allen against Audrey Gee. It took Audrey all her time to beat Edna Moore in the third game, and Joyce barely managed to scrape home in the third against Edna. Most of us know what a formidable opponent Edna can be, once she gets stuck into her game.

It took two matches for Bibbys to reach the third round; they beat Orrell 7-3 in the re-play. Linnets went through after a 7-3 win at Bath Street, and Crawfords had no difficulty against Rafters 'A'. Cadwa, Bohs, Rafters and the Cricket Club are still in the running, and there may well be some surprises in the next round.

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A QUIET PERIOD (by JACK McCAIG)

Gunnion departs

WITH the sudden departure of Ralph Gunnion to Birmingham, where he took up a new position on January 1st, the current Liverpool team lost its strongest playing member. It is a pity that, just at the moment when the senior team is challenging so strongly in the Lancashire league, we should lose the services of a player who has improved out of all recognition in the short space of two seasons, and become one of the best players in Lancashire.

His record of played 9 won 8, speaks for itself, particularly as the teams so far encountered have been Manchester, Stockport and Burnley, the three strongest teams in the league.

Fortunately, with victories against the last two named, it seems on the cards that we shall finish runners-up to Manchester—not a bad performance if it materialises.

In any event I am sure we are all agreed that Liverpool's loss of

Gunnion must be Birmingham's gain, although the player is certain to find competition there rather stiffer than here.

A quiet period

Not many matches have been played since the last issue of the *Digest*, but the second half of the season is a very full one.

The most interesting match in the offing is that between the Ladies' 1st and 'A' teams to be played at Messrs. Crawford's on 12th January. There is certain to be keen competition between the respective contestants, and although the 1st team ought to win the encounter, it is by no means certain to be the case, and I feel the 1st team players will have to pull out all the stops.

The Junior 1st team have a first class chance to emulate last season's performance, and again win their division, but stiff matches against Burnley and Stockport at the end of the season will no doubt determine whether this is to be the case.

SAM STURGEON

IT is with deep regret that we have to record the sad passing away on the 9th January, 1962 of Sam Sturgeon.

Sam was one of those unobtrusive fellows who never sought the limelight but was content to work behind the scenes on the vital but less glamorous jobs.

It is to his everlasting credit that he will be recalled to mind as a playing member of the Beauclair Club, whereas in point of fact he was for a number of years the Equipment Officer for the League, in which capacity it was his responsibility to see that paraphernalia for the various tournaments was available, installed, and working properly, for which services he was appointed a Vice-President of the League.

The deep sympathy of all members goes out to Renee and her family at this time.

ENGLISH CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE English Closed Championships held on the 6th January, 1962 produced a first time winner in the form of Bobby Stevens, from Walthamstow, who beat Stan Jacobson 21-15, 17-21, 21-17, 21-17 in the final. His performance was the more meritorious in that he included among his victims the England No. 1—Ian Harrison—whom he beat 21-13 in the fifth game of the semi-final.

Miss Diane Rowe, of Middlesex, completed the hat-trick in winning the Women's Singles title for the third year running when she beat Mrs. Joan McCree 21-12, 21-16, 21-12.

The winners of the other events were:—

Men's Doubles—R. Stevens and R. F. Raybould.
Mixed Doubles—J. A. Leach and Miss Diane Rowe.
Women's Doubles—Mrs. A. R. Mills and Miss Diane Rowe.

CUP COMPETITIONS WARMING UP

MORE interest is centred in the **Readman Cup** than in any of the others, and usually the majority "surprises" are found in these results. This year is no exception, although there have been very few shocks in the first rounds. Indeed, the only item worthy of note in all of the preliminary rounds was the defeat of Dave Butterworth by a 5th Division player from Bootle Nalگو, J. McMorran, 14-21, 21-19, 21-17. This was Bootle Nalگو's only win of the match, but it goes to show that all of the talent is not in the top divisions.

The first round saw Liverpool Cricket Club beat 2nd Division Oakhill 'A', and Liverpool Y.M.'s 'A' team go down fighting against Bootle Y.M. by 6-4 after a draw in the first match. In the same round Peter D'Arcy lost his 100% record by a double defeat by Jack Seddon and Andy Byrne (Waterloo Dock) and Les Sille scored a double over Butterworth and Jimmy Clewett. Indeed the Dock did well to push this strong Y.M.C.A. side so hard. Litherland and 2nd Division Police played two draws, and were then equal on games, so a "points count" gave victory to L.P.A.S. by 52 points. Bohemians seemed determined to get their moneys worth, drawing 5-5 with Oakhill away and winning 6-4 at home, then in the second round having another draw at home with Balfour, before losing 4-6 in the re-play. Harry Spiers was not available for the second match, which was a pity from Boh's point of view, for had he repeated his win of the first match there would have been a draw, and Boh's had a 3-game lead from the first effort.

In the **Rumjahn Cup**, Fairlawn 'A' (5th Division) had a good win over 3rd Division opponents Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'B' in the first round, but had to bow the knee in the second to their own first team, the 3rd Division leaders. And Nalگو, also

from the 5th, went to Litherland 'A' and entered the last eight by virtue of a 6-4 win over this team who were only last year in the 2nd Division. They have a fair chance of reaching the semi-final, as they now entertain Victoria Park's 'C' team, and another victory is not outside their grasp. Liverpool C.C. beat Linacre away by the convincing margin of 8-2, only Lacey and John Davidson for Linacre gaining any success. This Cricket Club team is strong right the way down, and any team who beat them will have to be on top form. Linnets 'A' who visit them in the next round should not under-rate them, for last season at this stage, they went out to the Cricketers 6-4. Sefton travel to Rafters, where the re-play between the Rafters 'B' and 'C' teams has yet to take place. The original battle was a hectic affair in which no quarter was either asked or given. Here you find half a dozen ex 1st Division players equally divided between the teams, and anything can happen when this tie is decided.

In the **Hyde Cup**, most matches have gone according to form, but the biggest surprise was not that Crawfords beat Linnets 'C' (joint 7th Division leaders) but the ease with which they did so. Of the 9 sets won by Crawfords 8 were won by large margins in 2 straight, and the two which went to three were divided between the teams. Malayan College, 8th Division, and Brenka (7th) are still in with a good chance, but Crawfords are the outstanding team left in the Cup. It is pretty certain that the new holders will come from these three, but there has not yet been any guide for neither Brenka nor Malayan College have been extended. Indeed it is rare to find Brenka fielding their strongest side, seeming more intent on giving all of their players a show, though they had respect enough for Crawfords 'A' to turn out their full team, to win 7-3 in the second round.

CANDID COMMENTS

LAST month it was Wavertree Labour, this month it is Balfour—so the sorry list of penalties inflicted by the Management Committee for breaches of the Rules continues.

It is a constant source of wonder why clubs run the risk of disciplinary action and consequent loss of good name when the Management Committee have always been most understanding with clubs playing short through circumstances beyond their control. At the worst a 5/- or 10/- fine can be expected. We wonder if any aspiring Psychologist in our ranks can offer any explanation, or influencing factors, which persuade club secretaries or team captains to play players under assumed names.

LENGTHENING SHADOWS

We were interested to read in the "Liverpool Echo" of Dunbar's research into the high average age of players constituting the First Division in the Liverpool League, which he placed at around the 30 mark.

In considering this point we sometimes wonder exactly how much effect the formation of the Wirral League and the increasing prominence of the Business Houses League has had on Merseyside Table Tennis.

It is a strange coincidence—if coincidence it be, that Liverpool Table Tennis seems to have stagnated from about the time our friends over the water left us to

form their own (very thriving) League.

Much was made at the League's A.G.M. of the introduction of a Premier Division of three-a-side teams which its sponsors claimed (quite rightly) would give the better class of player more opportunity to meet opposition of a similar calibre. How practicable would it be we wonder for a One-Division Merseyside League to be brought into operation comprising, say, the top five teams in the First Division of the Liverpool and Wirral Leagues with one of the Cups, not now being played for, offered as a trophy to the ultimate champions. Alternatively, membership of this Merseyside League could be by nomination of the respective Management Committees.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

In wishing all readers of the *Digest* a Happy New Year we would enter the plea that the opportunity be taken to make a New Year's resolution. We can think of no better one than that each registered player takes upon himself (and herself) the fulfilment of obligations within the spirit as well as the letter of the law.

Nothing would give us greater pleasure in the months to come than to be able to comment on the complete absence of disciplinary cases brought before the Management Committee or of teams playing short or perpetually having players arrive late for matches.

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