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**TABLE
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DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE *Digest* TENNIS

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

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EDITORIAL BOARD:

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

Vol. XII

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No. 4

EDITORIAL

IT is right and proper that as each member subscribes to the *Digest* an apology should be made, and an explanation given, for the delay in the distribution of the February issue of the magazine which was a fortnight late in reaching subscribers.

For many years now Joe Ellison has manfully taken upon his shoulders the onerous task of addressing over 800 wrappers in each of the five months in which the *Digest* appears and it is unfortunate that on this occasion Joe was unable to discharge this function owing to circumstances over which he had no control.

The fact that he has never previously failed to produce the wrappers in good time for the Printer is self-evident of the care and attention which Joe has given to this matter in the past.

This little mishap only serves to highlight the many difficulties of producing a magazine of this nature from entirely voluntary services which, though freely given, depend so much on external circumstances completely unrelated to the publication of the journal. It is fitting, therefore, at this juncture, to pay tribute to Jimmy Green for his untiring efforts in distributing last month's copies.

It was only by virtue of his attendance at a Management Committee Meeting on the Friday evening that Jimmy learnt that the *Digest* was still at the Printers owing to the non-arrival of the wrappers, whereupon he took immediate steps to contact Joe Ellison from whom the 180 wrappers so far addressed were collected, and the remaining 700 completed over the weekend to enable the complete issue to be posted on the Monday afternoon.

Those of us who at school have suffered the injunction—"Take 100 lines"—will know only too well the fatigue and boredom which the writing out of 700 names and addresses entailed.

Hats off then to Jimmy for this noble service so cheerfully performed, and whose only comment was "It's all part of the service"—AND WHAT A PART!

From the Secretary's Desk

DON'T FORGET THE "CLOSED"

(By JOHN McKIM)

BEFORE you read this article, if indeed you do so at all, please fill in your entry form for the "Closed", which you will find enclosed with this *Digest*, and post it off to Miss Lindner right away. The closing date is 7th April, but PLEASE don't wait until the 6th or 7th before sending off your form. A great deal of work has to be done before the tournament, and you can help by posting your entry right away.

The next issue of the *Digest* will probably be delayed so that details of the "Closed" can be included, so I will take this opportunity of reminding you that proposed rule amendments and nominations for next season's Committee must be in my hands by 1st May. Nomination forms will be sent out to Club Secretaries later.

The time factor is all important at the end of the season.

Your rule amendments have to be in by 1st May, after which they have to be collated, duplicated, and sent out to reach Club Secretaries 7 days before the A.G.M., which according to our rules, has to be held in May. So PLEASE do not approach me, as other Clubs have done in the past, at the end of April, with the sad story that your Club General Meeting is not being held until the first week in May. Even if I were empowered to break the League rules, which I am not, this is one rule which must be strictly adhered to.

As Clubs with teams in the 8th

Division and Women's Division 2 will agree, the position in these divisions with teams dropping out is most unsatisfactory. The remedy for this state of affairs is not easy and it would appear that the only way to partially solve the problem is to restrict entries at the start of the season, instead of trying to fill up the lowest division when we have only 9 or 10 teams available.

These 9 or 10 teams should take over the vacancies which occur in the next highest division. This would mean that some of these teams would not play in the League at all, and others get in half way through the season. It is not a good idea, I know, to restrict entries, and turn away additional teams from existing Clubs, or even new Clubs, but this way may be better than accepting entries, taking full payment and then only providing half a season's table tennis.

I fully realise that a Club Secretary's task in trying to find out in June if his players will be available for the following season is a formidable, and sometimes impossible, one, but I would urge Club Secretaries now, whilst they are still in touch with their players, to try and assess their playing strength so that only the number of teams which can be maintained throughout the season are entered. Don't forget that every time a team is withdrawn from the League during the season 65 fellow players are deprived of two matches each.

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Relegation Threatens!

(by JACK McCAIG)

AFTER winning Division 2 (West) of the Lancashire and Cheshire League for the past three seasons, our Men's "A" team now find themselves in real danger of being relegated to the Third Division.

Ironically, it is the release of Wally Allanson from the match versus Mid-Cheshire to enable him to play for this club in a replay of the Readman Cup which has produced this state of affairs. The match was lost 6-4 and the Readman Cup match was postponed at the very last minute!!

I have a feeling it will be Chester "A" who will make the drop for they have a stiff match against the Liverpool Business Houses League with which to end their season. This issue will be settled very soon now.

Ladies fair season

With a convincing win against the Business Houses team at the Beauclair club, the Ladies 1st Team set the seal on quite a good season, having won five of their eight matches. As there is but one Ladies Division this season, the question of promotion and relegation does not apply. This of course eliminates any possible worries as far as the 1st team is concerned, but has probably deprived the "A" team of another outright win in the second division. As it is, they have competed along with the 1st team, and while they still have to play Stockport and Blackpool, they should finish the season about mid way up the table.

Juniors' chance

All is not lost for the Junior team, who, if they can defeat Burnley in

the last match of the season, can very well retain their title for the third consecutive season. This has been made possible by a fine win over Stockport, where Robert Eden, in his last season as a junior player, again won all his three sets, and remains undefeated in the league this season—a very fine performance indeed. If he can just maintain this effort for the Burnley match, I feel that there is a good chance of winning against a side which is also pretty strong.

Much help

As another season draws to a close, I must again thank the many clubs who have so willingly allowed their clubrooms to be used for inter-city matches. Their gestures are very much appreciated.

A big "thank you" also to Messrs. Peter and Ted Rumjahn, Alex Gould, Joe Ellison, Miss Mansell and Mrs. Crafter, who between them have travelled many many miles with their respective teams, and lost a lot of sleep in the process. Finally to the players, who have co-operated excellently in matters of replying to correspondence, and being generally helpful, our congratulations on some excellent performances and good manners on the table.

Without the wholehearted co-operation of clubs, officials and players alike the task of running six representative teams would be well nigh impossible. I wonder how many Match Secretaries of other Leagues can call upon such willing helpers. Not many I'll bet.

HYDE CUP

THE Hyde Cup will be fought out between Crawfords, who beat Liverpool C.C. "A" 9-1 (only 2 sets even went to three), and Brenka, who beat off the 8th Division team Malayan College at the second attempt. On paper Crawfords should win, but Brenka have some really good men on hand, and if at full strength might provide a real sensation. For their first match with Malayan College their team lined up in the normal order with Morley at No. 1 where he only managed to win one of his two sets, beating Lee Choong Sen and losing to Ho Kee Bow, who also beat Billy Miller. For the replay, Brenka switched their order, dropping Peter Morley to No. 4, and promoting Spencer, Miller and Rockcliffe to 1, 2 and 3. At the same time, the College had two reserves, Hong Kong and Mahalingham taking the places of Albert Atkinson and Kamaruddin. Whether these changes made the difference or not is impossible to say, but Brenka made it by 7 sets to 3. Morley and Guy (again) each winning two, the others one each. Although beaten, Malayan College made their mark in this cup competition by their success in taking a team such as Brenka to a replay, for only Crawfords in last year's semi-final have been able to beat that club since it re-entered the League.

RUMJAHN CUP

FAIRLAWN had a comfortable win over Nalگو 7-3 to gain the final. For the losers, Lambert, Kneale and Baroosh each won one, Mooney and Whalley scoring doubles for the winners with the Leeson brothers and Brian Carter adding one each. Fairlawn seem set to win the 3rd Division, and now have the chance of adding the Cup to their honours, but they will find that Liverpool Cricket Club are stronger opposition than were Nalگو.

Rafters "B" went out fighting to the Cricket Club 6-4, in a match which might well have gone the other-way but luck would certainly have been necessary. The Cricket Club seemed to have the edge, although they had to field a reserve in place of Fred Bamford, whose business commitments do not allow him to play on Fridays. However, the outstanding impression of the entire match seems to be the set between Bill Lamb and Dick Burge, in which both players appeared intent on demonstrating how close to the ceiling they could get the ball without actually touching it. The final should provide an extremely interesting match with the odds apparently slightly in favour of the Cricket Club.

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LET'S HAVE SOME PUBLICITY

OVER the past few years we have heard a great deal about the "declining interest" and "lack of up-and-coming youngsters" in our game, and have had many and varied excuses for this state of affairs, but is it not possible that a major proportion of the blame can be attributed to lack of publicity?

Seldom (if ever) are we told in advance of forthcoming city matches, and yet some years ago, when the late Bill Stamp was bemoaning "lack of interest" he was taken up on it by a certain club Secretary, who, to prove his point, hired a hall and staged a Liverpool-Manchester Wilmot Cup game—charged admission—and attracted just on 200 spectators—because he had given the match **ADVANCE PUBLICITY**. Since then city matches have continued to be played in secret accompanied by a permanent moan about "lack of interest" from players and officials. Yet, on enquiry, it appears that there **ARE** some players, especially amongst the younger ones, who would welcome the chance of seeing these games, but lack of advance notice not only prevents their doing so but ensures a bare hall and deprives our teams of that moral support which the presence of spectators would provide.

How many Liverpool players know anything of table tennis outside the League? How many can name the current England or even Lancashire players?

Such is the result of lack of publicity.

In Liverpool there is a flourishing L.B.A. League, many of whose youngsters drift out of table tennis when too old for the L.B.A. There is little doubt that many **WOULD** carry on **IF THEY KNEW** of clubs locally. Three clubs at least recruit some of these lads but many are lost to the game. Decent publicity should ensure a regular influx of players from this source, yet we sit back and bemoan the lack of young players.

The weekly article in the "Liverpool Echo" gives only news of the Business Houses League and of our own League (apparently in that order of priority) for although there are other Leagues in the area little is heard of them. We are not fighting for other Leagues—they should be able to take care of themselves—but it does underline the poor Press coverage given to the game on Merseyside.

In the business world it has long been established that in order to sell anything advertising is essential. Even the Government (proprietors of the B.B.C.) use I.T.V. to sell road safety, milk, eggs, etc. It is high time that the idea of playing table tennis was "sold" to the public. It is reasonably obvious that the present form—one weekly article in the "Echo" (with results two weeks old)—is quite inadequate.

The Merseyside Open, one of the major tournaments of the country, run under conditions which are as nearly perfect as possible receives advance publicity which can only be described as ludicrous.

How many players in other LOCAL Leagues ever hear of it?

Liverpool League clubs are issued with a poster "telling them all about it", but **OUR PEOPLE ALREADY KNOW** through the *Digest* so surely these posters would do more good sent to clubs in OTHER Leagues, from whom entries or spectators might be forthcoming.

Surely the present position of failing support and rising average age is sufficiently desperate for another angle to be tried.

At least there can be no harm in trying advance, wide-spread publicity for coming events. What is there to lose by trying? At least if it does get some results by adding a few spectators at inter-city games or attracting a few new players **SOMETHING** will have been gained!

Y.M.C.A.'s Dominate Readman Cup

THE stage is now set for the battle of the two Y.M.C.A.'s—Liverpool and Bootle—in the final of the Readman Cup, when a great fight is expected with the result very much open to doubt.

Coveney's Night Out

To reach the final Liverpool Y.M.C.A. overcame Rafter's 6-4 in the semi-final when the hero of the evening was undoubtedly John Coveney. He found himself at No. 1, presumably as the "sacrifice" who was to make it easier for his colleagues to win in lower berths, but John is one who does not understand the duties of sacrifice, for although losing to Arthur Taylor, he beat David Ferguson in two straight, very comfortably, which was not to the liking of David who had picked this particular event himself. Even then, Roy Smith had to win the last one of the night v. Arthur Jones to decide the match, which he did at 22-20 in the third. Everyone of the Y.M.C.A. team won one set with Roy Smith winning his two, so it was a team triumph, although Coveney's was the performance of the night.

Near thing for Bootle

In the other semi-final Bootle Y.M.C.A. were locked in mortal combat with Linnets when Hobbs had the unenviable experience of having to beat Brownlee to force a draw and a replay.

The set of the evening was that between Ralph Gunnion and Colin Thomas, both of whom had travelled great distances for this match, one from Birmingham and the other Llandudno. Those who expected a good show were not disappointed, for this provided table tennis of a quality seldom seen in local circles. Gunnion deservedly won 21-13 in the third, but the replay might find this altered. Ted Birch v. Frank

Thomas was another thriller, but of a different kind, this being a dour struggle between two evenly contested players. At 17 all in the final game, a couple of edges put Birch 20-17 up, but Thomas levelled again at 20 all before losing 22-20.

Replay keeps up temperature

The replay commenced with both teams level on sets and games but with Bootle having a small, comforting lead of 27 points. Once again the result was a draw with Bootle Y.M.C.A. emerging as winners with 25 games to 24.

Ralph Gunnion suffered his second defeat of the season, this time at the hands of Colin Thomas, who pinned Gunnion down on the extreme backhand corner to keep him quiet, and varying the length of his shots to prevent the "looped" drive being employed with any accuracy. As a spectacle, it did not come up to their clash in the first match, but tactically it was much superior. Thomas also beat Ted Birch. Roy Jones got a double with Hobbs scoring one over John Ball to complete Linnets five.

Bootle got their five via Gunnion who beat Tony Green, Ball (also over Green in the third), Allanson with a double over Hobbs and Frank Thomas, and Gordon Brownlee, also from Frank Thomas.

So Bootle, deservedly, go forward to meet Liverpool Y.M.C.A. in the final. In both matches there were some sets which might easily have been won the other way, but Frank Thomas had the galling experience in both to have one set decided by edge shots—though he had had his share earlier on—which is unfortunate, but always "on". Maybe it will be his turn next time!

REMINDER

Fill in, and send off, **NOW**, your Entry Form for the "CLOSED".

Around the Divisions

(by our Special Correspondents)

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool YM	21	19	1	1	160	50	39
Rafters	20	18	0	2	153	47	38
Bootle YM	20	14	3	3	141	59	31
Balfour	17	13	3	1	114	56	27
Bohemians	21	12	8	1	113	97	25
L'pool YM A	21	11	7	3	121	89	25
Oakhill	19	9	9	1	91	99	19
W'loo Dk.	21	8	11	2	94	116	18
Anfield	21	6	11	4	86	124	16
Victoria Pk.	20	7	11	2	91	109	16
Rafters A	19	4	13	2	62	128	10
Linnets	19	2	14	3	60	130	7
Litherland	20	2	16	2	62	138	6
Bath Street	21	1	19	1	52	158	3

LIVERPOOL Y.M.C.A. are chasing the double with renewed vigour. Although still one point behind Rafters their win over their rivals in the Readman Cup leads them to believe that they can repeat the dose in their second League match, which now seems to be the only deciding factor in the ultimate championship. Both still have certain tough matches, but "form" gives them both the edge.

Sticking my neck out, my vote goes for Rafters. It is a strange thing that, while other teams switch their order in order to beat Rafters, they themselves seldom vary theirs—in fact, apart from an occasional changeover of the 2 and 3, they don't alter the order at all. It seems that though they want to win (who doesn't?) winning is not all-important, for if it were, there is always "brother Ted" who could join in for the tough ones.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. and Balfour have now dropped too far back to win the league, but they might yet have a say in the ultimate result, for either are good enough to take points away, as can Bohemians at full strength, and although it might seem stupid in view of their present League position, at full strength Linnets can (I do not say will, but can) beat either or both of the leaders. Both Bohemians and Linnets have suffered this season by players not being available—apart from cup matches Linnets have never had a full strength team out, and Bohemians seldom. While this causes no troubles for the players,

the club and specially the Secretary has the headache of replacements. Ken Jones can enlarge on this theme—many of his reserves had used up their "spares" by the half-way mark.

For the next issue, which will be the last, there should be seven weeks matches to comment upon resulting, I hope, in finishes so close as to merit special mention.

Jim Green

* * * *

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Bootle YM A	21	18	3	0	148	62	36
Cadwa	21	14	4	3	129	81	31
Bohs A	21	13	5	3	129	81	29
Victoria Pk A	21	9	5	7	110	110	25
L.P.A.S.	19	11	6	2	103	87	24
Balfour A	22	10	8	4	107	113	24
Lucem	19	10	7	2	105	85	22
R.A.F.A.	21	10	10	1	116	94	21
Beauclair	21	7	7	7	110	100	21
Victoria Pk B	20	6	10	4	86	114	16
W'loo Park	20	7	13	0	78	122	14
University	21	4	14	3	73	137	11
Bath St. A	21	3	14	4	79	131	10
Oakhill A	20	1	17	2	67	133	4

THE final League tables seem to be settled already, Bootle Y.M.C.A. being 5 points ahead of Cadwa at this stage. Bootle have earned 34 points from 20 matches, and their nearest rivals 29 from 19 matches, so unless something drastic happens, Bootle look like taking the championship. In any event, they have enough points already to virtually ensure a trip to the first division next season. Cadwa need to be careful though, for should they slip up, Bohemians "A" are close enough to take advantage, with 27 points from 20 matches. It doesn't look as though anyone else can overtake these three now. Police have 24 points from 19, and Victoria Park "A" 23 from 18 (they could cause a surprise if they win their remaining games).

At the other end of the table, Oakhill "A" have three points from 18 matches, and are most certainly doomed. They won their first match last week with a victory over Bath Street "A", one of their companions in distress, who have 8 from 19 matches.

Around the Divisions—continued

Jim Green has supplied me with some interesting statistics:—
 Bootle Y.M.C.A. "A" have played the same team in every match this season, which leads to an interesting question, does a settled team lead to success, or does success lead to a settled team? R.A.F.A. have used the services of 6 players so far, Lucem 8, and Police and University 9 each. Surprisingly, Cadwa have had 12 players appearing for them. If only they had made a better start to the season they would have been in a much better position.

Don Gauld

* * * *

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Fairlawn	21	17	2	2	148	62	36
Linacre	21	14	4	3	137	73	31
Rafters B	21	15	5	1	137	73	29
Linnets A	20	12	5	3	118	82	27
L'pool YM B	21	12	6	3	113	97	27
Eng. Elec.	21	8	7	6	105	105	22
Sefton	20	10	9	1	113	87	21
Bootle YM B	20	8	10	2	96	104	18
Litherland A	21	7	12	2	98	112	16
Anfield A	20	6	11	3	85	115	15
Bohs' B	21	5	12	4	87	123	14
Victoria Pk C	20	5	12	3	79	121	13
Balfour B	18	4	14	0	40	140	8
Cadwa A	21	3	17	1	70	140	7

WHILE Rafters "B" and Linnets "A" have been losing points rather surprisingly during recent weeks, Linacre have been taking advantage of the lapse to draw level. Frank Lacey, of Linacre, in particular has been playing most consistently, and my records to date still show him to have only two League defeats this season. Against Linnets "A" in January, he beat both Frank Thomas and Tony Green in straight games, and then a fortnight later, against Rafters, he beat Caird and Charlton without conceding a game. With Harry Reeve turning out occasionally, and the continued good form of the Davidsons Linacre could still gain promotion this season.

Thanks to the inconsistent form of the teams just below them, Fairlawn now have a slight lead at the top, but with five games still to go as I write, there will be no celebrating yet.

Congratulations to Cadwa "A" on achieving their first win of the season at the expense of Litherland "A". M. Deane, R. Craddock and K. Westhead all had double wins, while D. Johnson managed to win one, to give Cadwa a 7-3 victory.

Another recent result which caught the eye was Anfield's draw with Linnets at Beech Road. M. Derbyshire won his two events, while Bunner, Jackson and Branigan made the point safe with one apiece. For Linnets, I. Chazen had two comfortable wins, and now seems to be making up for a rather unsuccessful first half of the season.

Brian Leeson

* * * *

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool C.C.	17	16	1	0	150	20	32
L.P.A.S. A	19	15	4	0	124	66	30
Linnets B	20	12	4	4	121	79	28
Bath St. B	18	11	6	1	106	74	23
W'loo Pk. A	19	7	7	5	95	95	19
Bootle YM C	19	8	10	1	89	101	17
Cadwa B	20	7	10	3	94	105	17
Oakhill B	19	6	8	5	83	107	17
Wvrtree Lab.	18	8	10	0	68	112	16
Victoria Pk D	18	5	10	3	78	102	13
W'loo Dk. A	18	5	10	3	76	104	13
Litherland B	19	4	13	2	58	132	10
Anfield B	18	1	12	5	67	142	7

HERE is one for all of you hunters of records and seekers of the bizarre—the Chairman (who is also the Secretary) of one Club captaining the opposition to his own club team. Surely this must constitute an all-time record for any sport, let alone table tennis. This is how it has come about—Ron McEvoy joined Linnets at the start of the season, following a disagreement with his old club—Wavertree Labour. Happily, a few weeks ago Wavertree Labour and Ron resolved their differences when the Labour club elected him both Secretary and Chairman. Having registered for Linnets, Ron wished to play out the season for them, thereby giving rise to the unique position outlined above when Linnets and Wavertree Labour were in opposition.

Wavertree Labour won 10-0, a result which must have left Ron with very mixed feelings.

Around the Divisions—continued

The pattern at the top of the table has altered little. The Cricket Club have consolidated their lead by beating their sole remaining challengers, Police "A" 8-2, and now head the division by two points with a game in hand. In this game the 100% records of both Les Lewis and Max Griffiths went by the board, both losing to J. Conroy.

At the foot of the table the hapless Anfield "B" team seem doomed for the fifth division, the remaining question being who will accompany them. Litherland "B", with a draw and a win in their last two games are fighting hard. In their game v. the Police their No. 1 did exceptionally well by taking both his sets.

Len Davies

* * * *

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool P.O. . .	17	15	1	1	132	38	31
Fairlawn A. . .	18	14	4	0	120	60	28
Beauclair A. . .	19	12	4	3	132	58	27
Rafters C. . .	18	12	4	2	117	63	26
Nalگو . . .	19	12	5	2	127	63	26
St. Eds OB . .	17	8	5	4	105	65	20
L'pool YM C . .	19	7	7	5	104	86	19
Bohs C. . .	19	7	10	2	90	100	16
Wav. Lab. A. .	17	8	9	0	64	106	16
W'loo Pk B. .	19	5	12	2	72	118	12
Bootle Nalگو .	18	4	12	2	61	119	10
Fairlawn B. .	19	1	17	1	31	159	3
Dom. Miss. . .	16	0	16	0	19	141	0

FAIRLAWN "A" have increased their promotion chances by virtue of a good win over Liverpool Post Office, 7-3. J. Evans and Len Carter inflicted a rare double defeat on W. Shiel. This makes Fairlawn "A" the first team to beat the Post Office this season, and puts them close on their heels at the top of the table. With Rafters "C" dropping unexpected points, Fairlawn must now be very strongly fancied for one of the two top positions.

Rafters "C" did nothing to improve their chances by playing a draw with Liverpool Y.M.C.A. "C", another with the much improved Beauclair "A", and then losing at home to St. Edwards O.B. J. O'Keefe scored an exceptionally good double over M. Gallagher and D. Batty in this 6-4 win.

At the lower end of the table, Domestic Mission have been hit by injuries to regular players, but gained a 10-0 conceded walk-over from Bootle Nalگو to boost their points total.

An interesting comparison is revealed up to the eighteenth match, in the number of players called on for each team in the division. Wavertree Labour lead with 11, Rafters "C" 10, Beauclair "A" and Fairlawn "B" 9, Bohemians "C" and Fairlawn "A" 8, and the remainder only 7 each.

Apart from three 10-0 walk-overs conceded by Bootle Nalگو, there has been only ONE case of a team in this division playing short during this seventeen-week period. This is by far the best "attendance" record for any division of the League this season, and all players are to be congratulated on this splendid effort. Keep it up!

Les Harper

* * * *

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Crawfords . . .	21	19	0	2	174	36	40
Crawfords A. .	20	15	3	2	144	56	32
Eng. Elec. A . .	20	14	2	4	139	61	32
L'pool CC A . .	19	12	2	5	129	61	29
Stanley House 21	13	5	3	128	82	29	
Eng. Elec. B . .	20	9	8	3	106	94	21
University A. .	21	9	10	2	110	100	20
Nalگو A. . .	21	9	11	1	95	115	19
Bath St. C. . .	22	8	11	3	99	121	19
L.P.A.S. B. . .	19	7	9	3	99	91	17
Rafters D. . .	20	4	13	3	84	116	11
Beauclair B. .	20	5	14	1	72	128	11
Wav. Lab. B . .	21	1	18	2	37	173	4
Anfield C. . .	20	0	20	0	3	197	0

AN 8-2 win by Crawfords over the Cricket Club has made them clear cut favourites for the championship, having stayed the course better than their early rivals. Crawfords "A" team have had a good season also. After their defeat of English Electric "A" they thrashed Stanley House 8-2, and took a point from the Cricket Club. They also drew with Wavertree Labour, thanks mainly to two sets from Walter Eymond, with Alf Siddall scoring a double for Wavertree—a good point this for the "exiles".

Around the Divisions—continued

Three good draws:— Beauclair (Roberts and Pratt 2 sets each) and Bath Street (Hill and Campbell 2 each), Rafters (Winstanley 2) and Nalگو (Evans 2), and the Cricket Club v. English Electric "A". Dick Burge played superbly to win both sets, and Hand and Manchester each scored a double for his respective side.

Pete Davies is having an excellent season for English Electric "B" who slipped a top hat on Beauclair. And Bath Street had a good win over Wavertree Labour in a match in which Connell and Willett hit the jackpot.

The Police had two good wins away over Rafters and Nalگو, but they crashed against the Cricket Club. Dean was certainly "swinging" here with a double which included the scalp of Catterson. It was pleasant to see a Barbara Topping double in this match also.

Jack Lambert

* * * *

Division 7

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Brenka	20	18	1	1	158	42	37
Linnets C	18	16	1	1	134	46	33
L'pool CC B	20	14	5	1	133	67	29
Tech. Studs.	19	12	4	3	126	64	27
Colonsay	19	11	7	1	110	80	23
Lewis's	20	9	7	4	106	94	22
Crawfords B	17	7	6	4	86	84	18
University B	21	6	10	5	100	110	17
Bootle YM D	18	5	10	3	75	105	13
Oakhill C	18	4	10	4	77	103	12
Linnets D	19	5	13	1	78	112	11
Cath. Met.	20	3	17	0	58	142	6
Wav. Lab. C	20	2	18	0	15	185	4

AT the time of writing, Brenka are looking more likely divisional champions than they were last month. However, Linnets "C" are making it imperative that they fight all the way, and I don't think things will be finally decided until the last couple of weeks of the season. The regular members of the Brenka team this year have been Alan Guy, Bill Miller and Brian Rockcliffe. These three have been teamed with various reserves from time to time and have certainly had some very narrow squeaks, although I notice that they are not slow to call on

Peter Morley (ex 1st Division) and Dave Spencer, who went for nearly the whole of last season before losing his 100% record, for any hard matches.

After going for fifteen consecutive league and cup matches without defeat, Brian Rockcliffe lost his first set to Peter Meyer (Linnets) and then lost one per match for the four succeeding games (including two in the cup) so from "Played 30, Won 30" his record dropped to "Played 40, Won 35" before he again started winning two a match v. Liverpool C.C. "B".

For those who are statistically minded, the number of players appearing in each team might be of some interest. Linnets "C" lead with 19, then come Catholic Metro. 17, University "B" 15, Linnets "D" and Brenka 14 each, Oakhill "C" and Crawfords "B" 13, Liverpool C.C. "B" and Bootle Y.M.C.A. "D" 11 each, Tech. Students 9, Colonsay 8, and Lewis's 7. It is indicative of the club strength of Brenka and Linnets when they can top the division with so many reserves taking part in their matches—all of whom must be supposed of a lower standard than their nominated teams.

Norman Nelson

* * * *

Division 8

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Malayan Coll.	13	12	1	0	105	24	24
L'pool CC C	13	10	2	1	93	37	21
St. Leonards	13	8	3	2	79	51	18
Lowlands	12	8	4	0	65	55	16
Burlington	13	6	6	1	61	69	13
Eng. Elec. C	13	5	6	2	64	66	12
Chshire Lines	12	4	5	3	65	55	11
Linnets E	13	2	10	1	37	93	5
L'pool CC D	11	1	8	2	35	75	4
Lucem A	8	0	8	0	12	67	0

THERE has been little or no change in league positions since the last notes, and with only four or five more matches to play, with a clear lead in points, it is fairly safe to say that Malayan College are the best bet for divisional champions. Liverpool Cricket Club "C" have slightly the edge on St. Leonards for second place, with

Continued on Page 13

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

BOHEMIANS OR RAFTERS FOR BARTHOLOMEW CUP

(by Eileen Mansell)

Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Bohs	13	13	0	0	102	28	25
Cadwa	13	11	2	0	96	34	22
Rafters	14	9	2	3	88	52	20
Oakhill	14	6	6	2	76	64	14
Linnets	13	4	6	3	52	78	11
Bath Street	14	3	9	2	49	91	8
Bibbys	11	3	7	1	51	59	7
Orrell	14	3	10	1	43	97	7
Cadwa A	13	3	10	0	41	89	6

Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Crawfords	11	10	1	0	97	13	20
L'pool CC	11	9	2	0	80	30	18
Rafters A	11	7	3	1	66	44	15
Bohs A	11	7	4	0	58	42	14
Bath St. A	13	6	5	2	70	60	14
Bibbys A	12	3	8	1	53	67	7
Bootle Nalgo	11	2	9	0	18	92	4
Tech. Studs.	11	0	11	0	5	105	0

BOHEMIANS and Rafters both had easy semi-finals to reach the final of the Bartholomew Cup. Bohs played Crawfords at Cadwa, and were in no way extended—only one set went to three games, that between Audrey Gee and Joyce Randall v. Joyce Horsley and Nora Ford. Muriel Cox, who has been playing very well in the 2nd Division just couldn't settle down to her game against either Moya Jones or Muriel Willcox, both outplaying her very easily. Though she has a good all-round game, her nerves are her worst trouble, and she will be a player to be reckoned with once she has conquered those. Her powers of concentration are none too good, yet with a little more experience she will undoubtedly give a good account of herself. Both of the Horsley girls play a good open game, but against such strong opposition they were somewhat out of their depth. Perhaps next season, when the team is promoted, all these will tighten their game, for the 2nd Division is in no way comparable with the 1st. Nora Ford was a little out of touch, also because she has no games in the 2nd Division to extend her. Anyway, Bohs once again defend their title, and I cannot see Rafters taking it away from them.

The Linnets-Rafters semi-final was most unfortunate for Linnets as they had to play one short owing to the indisposition of Milly Harris, and another player had had a serious car accident. Two other reserves were ill also. When these two teams met in the League the

first match was drawn and the second Rafters just won 6-4, so it could have been a very much closer thing than it turned out to be. Linnets started off with the disadvantage of being three sets down, and this undoubtedly had a disheartening effect on the rest of the team, with the result that Rafters coasted home 9-1. Lilv Wynne beat Gloria Greeley for Linnets only win. The only doubles went to three, but all other sets were won by Rafters in straight games. Elizabeth Loughrey, Rafters captain, has improved her game considerably since last season. She plays with her head, which might well be copied by many players. She is an all-rounder at sports, and had she devoted more time to table tennis would have been very good indeed. Bluey Casselman and Jean Reynolds both play a strong all-round game, though Bluey is not up to her standard of a few years back, owing to lack of practice, household duties etc., but she is still one to be reckoned with.

Although anything can happen in a cup-tie, Bohs should have no real difficulty in retaining the cup, having three regular inter-city players in their team. Whatever the result, it should be good to watch, for all players in both teams play a good open style and (I am happy to say) the majority are attacking players which makes any match a much better spectacle to watch.

Cricket Club's Good Performance

Liverpool Cricket Club had a good win over Crawfords recently.

Women's Divisions—continued

Barbara Topping played at No. 2 for this match, and accounted for Muriel Cox and Joyce Horsley in straight games. Hazel Farrel at No. 1 lost both easily to Muriel and Barbara Horsley. Dawn Lewis (No. 3) and Maureen King (4) both won two. It certainly wasn't a good night for Crawfords, yet despite this they still top the table with 20 points from 11 matches, while the Cricket Club have 18 points from 11 matches—having conceded a 10-0 walk-over purely by accident to Bath Street "A". There is really very little to choose between the two teams—it is mainly a matter of who can control their nerves the better in their second match shortly. Both are having easy wins in the 2nd Division. Whether they can maintain this in the 1st remains to be seen.

Boote Nalgo and Tech. Students are still holding up the 2nd Division. I hope they will not be discouraged, and will continue to play even though results are not what they would like.

Orrell and Cadwa "A" are still without much success though some of their matches have been very close. They just seem to lack that little bit extra, though all players are keen, and it seems a pity that they seem likely to be relegated, as

both are far too strong for the 2nd Division. Orrell fought out a good draw with Bath Street, the doubles events saving them from defeat, when Billy Illidge had good wins over Daphne Campbell and Barbara Taylor. Lil Jenkins lost two close sets against D. Campbell and J. Pedley, and just could not pull it off. Lil's backhand is most effective—if her forehand was as accurate she would account for a lot of players.

An Open "Closed"

It is unfortunate that the Closed is so late this year, but it is unavoidable as the venue can only be booked during school holidays, and Easter is later this year. I hope that all lady players will do their best to enter, and so ensure a successful tournament. They have rallied round well in the last two or three years.

Moya Jones will be defending her title and I think she will be given quite a run this season. She has everything to lose and all others have everything to gain, but if Moya's nerves can stand the strain, she should run out the winner for yet another year.

It should prove a fascinating tournament, and I appeal for full support from our lady players.

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Lowlands lying handy to take any advantage of the merest slip by them, but the Cricket Club should just about make it. They gave Lowlands chances a severe jolt when they beat them 9-1, which puts Lowlands out of the running unless, as I say, the other two teams suddenly slip up.

The local Derby between the two Cricket Club teams, caused no surprise, with the "C" team winning 9-1, K. Wood being the one to save the whitewash. The "D" team earned congratulations by winning their first match by beating English Electric 6-4, Dawn Lewis and Maureen King each winning their two. A. Brown and J. Byrne scored

doubles for English Electric. It is always necessary to study the Cricketers' cards to make sure which team has played, for these two ladies play in both teams. Miss King has played in all "C" team matches, and Mrs. Lewis has missed only two. They also play quite frequently in the "D" team as well as their Women's teams, so they certainly get plenty of practice.

George Morgan

Note—Home teams who have not notified re-arranged dates following the recent follow-up by the Fixture Secretary will forfeit games unless re-arranged dates are notified within seven days.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

If the opinion of Mr. Alec Gould is to be listened to then the sooner a lot of Liverpool League players put away their bats the better. During a discussion which ensued at the conclusion of a set at our recent match with Bath Street, he commented that one plays to score 21 points regardless of how they are obtained, and if the desire is to derive enjoyment from Table Tennis it should be confined to friendly games. This coming from a member of the Management Committee is, to say the least, most discouraging, as the number of games we have had this season are all too few.

We wonder how many other players in the League share the views of Mr. Gould.

L. Jenkins (Orrell)

We have received a long and interesting letter from Mr. R. L. Davies on behalf of Liverpool Cricket Club T.T.C. Unfortunately, the subject matter concerned a

complaint which the Cricket Club has asked shall be referred to the Board of Appeal, and the issue is, therefore, in our opinion "sub judice".

We shall, of course, be only too delighted to print the letter next month if the matter has been resolved by then.

Editor.

Dear Sir,

One would gain the impression upon reading the current issue of the *Digest* that Miss Mansell had been bitten by the latest Dance craze "bug" "The Twist" for her facts relating to the Orrell Ladies Team are so very distorted.

It is claimed that the team experienced a desperate struggle in order to gain promotion from the 2nd Division, but facts speak for themselves as reference to previous records will bear out.

The Orrell team gained promotion after only one season in the 2nd Division with an unbeaten record of 36 points (174 sets For—10 sets Against). During the season the

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Letters to the Editor—continued

team's 5 regular players headed the list of averages and their performance in the Bartholomew Cup Competition gained them words of praise. During subsequent seasons in the 1st Division, the team have neither won honours nor have they had desperate bids to avoid relegation, as again the records will show the following end of season positions:—

1958/9—6/10; 1959/60—4/10;
1960/61—9/15.

The team are naturally anxious to preserve 1st Division status and whilst the current Season's results leave much to be desired we are still hopeful that this will be possible. At all events we play the game for the pleasure which we derive from it, and should it be our misfortune to be relegated we will continue to adopt the same spirit as previously, that of playing to win, but accepting defeat with good grace. This spirit will prevail despite discouraging reports, especially those which are not allied to the facts, and which have prompted this comment.

L. Upton

Hon. Secretary, Orrell Ladies Team.

Dear Sir,

Recently our Women's team was obliged to play in a Cup semi-final with only three players. Our total (female) playing strength is only seven—this being the number required by rule for one team. Of these, one had 'flu, one tonsillitis, one a severe attack of rheumatism and a fourth had been injured in a car smash. Four from seven = three.

Two days before the match, Rafter's Captain having agreed that a postponement was desirable, application was made to John McKim, the League Secretary (in the absence of Mr. Cameron) for a postponement. Unfortunately, it has never been a practice to allow cup semi-finals or finals to be re-arranged, so, albeit with some reluctance, Mr. McKim was obliged to refuse permission for another date.

Whilst agreeing that under the present system the decision was

perfectly correct, the Committee of this club consider that on all future occasions where cases of genuine illness prevent the appearance of the full number of players (not necessarily the strongest players) the League should allow semi-finals and finals to be re-arranged, especially in the case of women's teams, who nearly always have few reserves.

In the event, this particular match was reduced to a farce. Three sets were conceded beforehand, making the issue certain before a ball was struck, and we cannot think that either the players in the League or the Officials, would wish that such a situation should persist. It is our opinion that ALL applications for re-arrangement of these events should be considered entirely on their merits, not on the set basis of "no postponement".

We cannot think that the Rafter's team was happy about having to play against a short team in an important event.

One is tempted to wonder what would be the result if two women's teams were obliged to play short—one without the No. 1 and the other without the No. 4. Three sets given to each team—six players attending to play out four sets.

May we suggest that in future, re-arrangement of important matches such as this be allowed where there is a genuine case of a team being obliged to play "short".

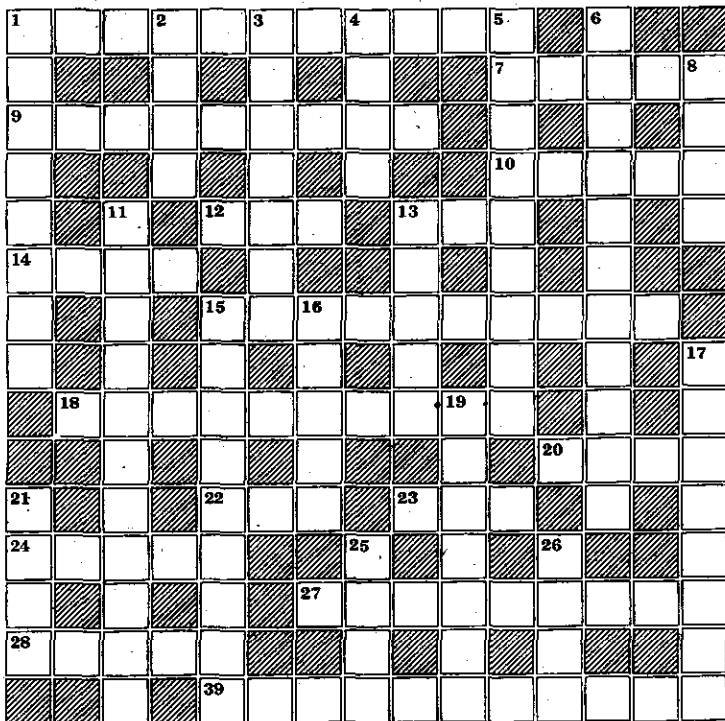
Incidentally, may we suggest further that, when a club has two or more teams in cup semi-finals, some effort is made to arrange their matches on separate evenings, so that the rank and file of the club might be able to give each team adequate support.

Finally, I would point out that in six years the women's team of this club has only ONCE played short prior to this match—again due to illness. Three members of the team have played throughout the six seasons, and each has missed only one match. A somewhat imposing record.

Yours faithfully,

Jim Green

Hon. Secretary, Linnets



Across

CLUES

Down

1. The first part well describes him—no more to be said (6.5).
7. Fifty for all—but there was only one.
9. You will probably be asked to 19 down some of these men soon!
10. Most of you did for Liverpool.
12. Not that we hope Liverpool T.T. is on here.
13. Part of the Fairlawn Club to which we should have regard.
14. This man's cup is well-known.
15. All bent and twisted but still two useful items (3.3.4).
18. A very sweet fellow!
20. Love is more usual.
22. Just one law man—but mischievous.
23. Allow the service to be retaken.
24. Pale as a fowl.
27. Followed by hard work!
28. Playing with skill you should get many.
29. Many cerise tears do come from them—it's not surprising!

1. The winner with a first class return—a plum to strive for.
2. The limiting rule.
3. Do the gunners play on it? It has value anyway.
4. The table's is 45 sq. ft.
5. Permittingly, let cleverly.
6. He caused many a fight between the ladies!
8. (& 17) A sound instruction to two individuals to cover themselves—they did once with distinction!
11. Begins on the beach, then have room—it takes the biscuit!
13. Glance the ball, without gravity you can fling it.
15. This of your turnout would be spoilt by ten stains or so.
16. There's a duck in the port, back to the scouts.
17. See 8.
19. See 9 across.
21. Associated with 1 down.
25. A well kept lawn.
26. When shall Liverpool produce such a shining light again!

A Box of Table Tennis Balls will be presented to the first correct solution received by the Editor whose decision is final.