

Volume XII.
Number 5



April 1962
Price 6d.

**TABLE
TENNIS
DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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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

April, 1962

No. 5

EDITORIAL

WE, believe that there will not be many people who will regret the ending of a melancholy Season.

Beginning with the unfortunate episodes' involving the Balfour and Wavertree Labour Clubs, it dragged its way through with more than the usual spate of withdrawals, which affected the Ladies Division more than most and reduced their number of competitive matches to a minimum, to end on a high note of tragi-comedy with the fiasco of the Readman and Rumjahn Cup Finals.

Many rumblings of dissatisfaction with the state of Liverpool table tennis have been heard, as a result of which one might have anticipated one or two resignations from the Management Committee, but all the members of that body, with the exception of Joe Ellison, have signified their willingness to stand for re-election.

More to the point, however, is the fact that despite the apparent dissatisfaction of League members with the Management, only two new people have been nominated for service on the Committee, one of whom must, of necessity, fill the vacant place created by Mr. Ellison's withdrawal. This would seem to disprove the old adage that "actions speak louder than words".

Among the more heartening aspects of the Season has been the happy way in which our new President has identified himself with Liverpool table tennis. Living as he does in Hertfordshire he could have been excused for becoming merely a name on official communications, but such would be foreign to the nature of Mr. Ken Hyde, whom we have been delighted to have with us at our Open and Closed Championships. To follow in the footsteps of such a distinguished predecessor as the late Mr. Bartholomew was a task sufficient to intimidate any man, but Ken Hyde has responded to the challenge in a way which would have received the commendation of "Barty" himself. Who can say more ?

Then there was the case of the pleasing little ceremony which took place at a recent Management Committee Meeting, when Mrs. E. Cameron ("Mrs. Fixture Secretary" to most of us) was presented with an item of jewellery as a small token of appreciation of the hard and unrewarding work which she has done for the League since Eddie took over. Hardly an evening passes without the telephone disrupting her family life, and one can only be impressed by her never failing good humour on these occasions.

Informal presentations of this nature demonstrate that whatever else might be said of it, Liverpool table tennis does, at least, preserve a sense of value and is not afraid to show it when the time is appropriate.

READMAN CUP

THE first match between Bootle-Y.M.C.A. and the Readman Cup has yet seen. It did not start until turned 8 o'clock owing to the absence of Bootle's Captain, and none of his team mates would fill in the card. The main impressions remaining of this match was the play of Ralph Gunnion, Dave Butterworth's strong challenge to him, the strange lapse of form by Peter D'Arcy (who had as unhappy a match as he is likely to have for years) and a three-mile walk home at midnight thanks to the late start! However, with Bootle having the edge on games, a replay was called for the following Friday, which I was not able to attend due to illness. (Jim Green)

About the replay (writes Eddie Cameron), perhaps the least said the better. I went along to the match knowing full well that the two teams were there on sufferance. Nobody wanted to play in this final, and we, the officials, tried not to provoke any incidents, but to the eternal credit of the two groups from the Y.M.C.A's, they were equally sincere in their desire not to cause any friction with us. Suffice to say that Bootle won their first ever victory in a Readman Cup final. What a pity that it was such an empty victory. At the conclusion, Dr. Loughrey spoke on behalf of both Clubs, refusing all medals and the Cup in protest. They had complied with the Management Committee's instructions, and had been led to water, but could not be made to drink. So the Readman Cup remains for this year with the Management Committee.

HYDE CUP

By beating Crawfords 7-3, Brenka provided a major upset in the Hyde Cup final (reports Ron McEvoy). Make no mistake about it, it was no lucky victory, nor was it easy, for that night Brenka were undoubtedly the better side. Both teams top their respective divisions and each unbeaten since last year's semi-final which Crawfords had won after a replay. It is ironical that the two new members of Crawfords team, brought in to add strength since last year, Phil Cox and Tom Partington, were those who suffered double defeat to spell tragedy for their side.

Crawfords, the away team, called on Cox to open against Brenka No. 1 Bill Miller, but he was obviously nervous and never looked like troubling Miller who dominated the game with stylish defence and a controlled attack. Crawfords Captain, C. Hoare, restored the balance, beating D. Spencer, after which the games then went with the "call" to 3-all. It was then that Crawfords called on Peter Modesto meet Cox, and since Morley had earlier lost to No. 4 Harrison, it looked a safe bet, but Morley turned the match toward Brenka by winning a marathon set at 23/21, 21/23, 22/20, and Brenka kept on the pressure when Rockcliffe beat Partington, again on a deuce in the third.

One must sympathise with Crawfords who for the second time in succession reached the final only to lose, but the match was so close that it is no injustice to Brenka to say that the result might have gone the other way.

On Playing To Win

Dear Sir,

At first I was going to ignore the letter from Mrs. L. Jenkins, but as the Management Committee were included in her comments I feel a reply is called for.

I feel that the reason why Mrs. Jenkins sent in her letter was because she had an "off" night and after coming off the table, beaten for the second time in one night, her outburst and comments on the game shocked her own team as much as it did ours.

I would ask Mrs. Jenkins to look at part of the letter sent in by her team-mate -that part about "playing to win, but accepting defeat with a good grace".

Finally, I would like to know how many of us go on a table for a game and play it in such a way as to ensure our defeat but are consoled in the knowledge that it has given our opponents a game he, or she, has enjoyed.

Alex. E. Gould

Dear Sir,

In reply to L. Jenkins (Orrell), re letter previous *Digest*, I should like to say that here is one who agrees with Mr. A. Gould. At least 40% of the players in the Liverpool League should put their bats away or confine their playing to friendly games. The 40% I refer to are the ones who turn up late every *week*—and this means after 7.30 p.m.—the ones who don't even turn up at all,

and the ones who play the game not to win but to have a night out (what an example these three types give to keen young enthusiasts!).

Whilst disagreeing with the bold statement "to score 21 regardless of how they are obtained", I agree with Mr. Gould, the object of League Table Tennis is to win as often as possible, otherwise what is the point of playing in a League?

G. C. Vick, Victoria Pk.

Dear Sir,

To quote somebody out of context is often misleading.

In her letter, printed in the March issue of the *Digest*, Mrs. Jenkins implies that Mr. Gould was suggesting unfair tactics in order to win. He was, in fact, merely supporting me in a somewhat heated argument after a set in which Mrs. Jenkins challenged my right to change the style of play I had used in previous unsuccessful encounters, for one she found more difficult.

Mr. Gould tried to point out that the aim of the game is to win, and that there is nothing unfair in exploiting an opponent's weakness.

Surely Mrs. Jenkins will agree that if we are not to be allowed to bring a little intelligence to the game not only a lot of us, but all of us, may as well put away our bats.

D. M. Campbell, Bath St.
T.T.C.

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35 Kendal Drive,
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The *Digest*, and indeed every member of the Liverpool League, congratulate Ralph Gunnion on becoming the first Liverpool player to win a

national title for over 12 years, which he did when winning the Scottish Open. In fact it has been quite a Season for him, for in addition to the Scottish he reached the final of the Irish Open, won the Midland Open, and became a member of the Warwickshire County side.

This young man has achieved his success the hard way—not through coaching schemes but by travelling to open tournaments throughout the country and by a dedicated approach to the game all too seldom seen in the young player today. Well done Ralph.

28th MAY, 1962 - A DAY OF DECISION

AT the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. on Monday, May 28th, the Management Committee will be putting before the Meeting certain suggestions for rule alterations. Most of these suggestions are designed to tidy up the existing rules, and, if possible, remove the double meaning which at present exists in certain of our rules.

However, at least two of our suggestions will meet with opposition, and, we hope, with some support. We are, for instance, proposing an increase in the maximum fine from £1 to £5. This is designed to cover the instances where a fine of £1 is inadequate, but the other penalties at our disposal (suspension or expulsion) appear to be too severe.

The other rule amendments we propose are designed to cover the introduction of a three-a-side League. This is a scheme for which, judging by the last A.G.M. there is support. We have given the matter some thought and believe that our scheme is workable. A brief outline of our suggestion is as follows:

(a) The three-a-side League is to be additional to the existing divisions, and not in place of them. Therefore matches played in this division will not count against the maximum of thirty match appearances allowed per season.

(b) Entry to the three-a-side division will be open only to clubs with a team or teams in the main divisions

. Any club withdrawing from the main divisions during the season would also have to withdraw from the three-a-side divisions.

(c) Each member of the team would play each member of the opposing team, making a total of 9 sets per match.

(d) All matches played: in the three-a-side division must be played on Friday evening. No postponements will be allowed. Any Club unable to fulfill a fixture on the Friday evening will forfeit the match.

(e) Each Club will only be allowed to enter ONE team in the three-a-side divisions. Any player registered for that Club can play in this team.

(f) If more than one division is formed, promotion and relegation will be on the existing two up, two down, principle. There will be no promotion or relegation between the main divisions and the three-a-side divisions.

No doubt the main debating point of the above scheme will be the provision that all matches be played on a Friday evening. This, we think, is an essential part of the scheme to enable us to key the fixtures to avoid clashing.

This, also, is the reason for the rule that no postponements will be allowed.

With such a full programme postponement of matches would lead to chaos.

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Liverpool Closed Championships

THE Closed Championships of 1962 were held once again at Dingle Vale School during the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 25th, 26th, 27th, and in the afternoon and evening of Saturday, 28th April.

The first Final was actually held on Thursday evening when Ted Morris and Peter Rumjahn entertained spectators to a great game in the Consolation Singles Final.

The Ladies Consolation Final took place on Saturday afternoon, when Bluey Casselman defeated Mrs. Dawn Lewis in three games, resolute defence eventually seeing her through.

The first two events, the Men's Singles Semi-Finals, were over very quickly, Ralph Gunnion almost nonchalantly dismissing Norman Jones', and Arthur Taylor defeating Ronnie Rumjahn with apparent ease. A closely fought-out final seemed to be in store for later in the evening.....

The Women's Doubles which followed was also a very short affair. Miss M. Harris and Miss L. Wynne, after a magnificent semi-final win over Moya Jones and Muriel Wilcox, could not hold Eileen Mansell and Judy Crafter in the Final. Eileen and Judy had earlier disposed of Mrs. J. Randall and Mrs. G. Rimmer again in straight games in the semi-final.

When Gordon Birch beat his Liverpool Junior Team colleague, Robert Eden, in a very close game, one looked for a possible surprise in the Final. Mike Cooper, however, having previously defeated Judy Crafter, was just that bit too steady for Gordon, and claimed the Junior Championship without being too hard-pressed.

The first big upset almost took place in the Mixed Doubles. Ralph Gunnion and Moya Jones, the holders, had lost the first game and were 16-19 down in the second, when Gunnion had to serve to Joyce Randall. Poor Joyce could not fathom the spin services and she and Arthur Taylor lost that game. Ralph and Moya had no difficulty in the third, and so retained their title.

The Veteran's Final was a most entertaining affair between brothers Peter and Ted Rumjahn, but as in most of the previous events, it was rather too short from the spectators point of view. It was almost strange to hear the sound of two ordinary pimped rubber bats in opposition in this event.

The Men's Doubles Final always provides some thrilling rallies for those watching and this was no exception. Gordon Brownlee and Ted Mandaluff had collected some distinguished scalps on their way to the Final, including those of Peter and Ted Rumjahn, Ralph Gunnion and G. Cooklin, Peter Turtle and Roy Smith, and then in the semi-final Wally Allanson and Roy Jones. They found Ronnie Rumjahn and -Arthur Taylor, the holders, too strong a combination for them in the Final, however. Ronnie and Arthur had previously had a comfortable win over Mal Wallace and Norman Jones, and never appeared in much trouble against Gordon and Ted. It was rather amusing to listen to the murmurs from the spectators when they heard the sound of the ball hitting Mandaluff's famous bat.

The major surprise of the whole tournament was undoubtedly the defeat of Moya Jones in the Women's Singles Final in two straight games by Judy Crafter. Judy had earlier disposed of Muriel Wilcox 25-23, 21-17, but Moya was certainly expected to retain her title. Judy, however, produced some attacking shots which surprised even Moya and her counter-hitting, particularly in the second game, was devastating. Truly a magnificent performance.

The Men's- Singles Final which followed was not as exciting as one might have hoped. Perhaps it was because the dethronement of one champion had just taken place and one expected a repeat in this event. Ralph Gunnion, however, thought otherwise and Arthur Taylor never really looked like upsetting this champion. On this form, Ralph could be confident of holding the Montague Burton Cup for more than just one year.

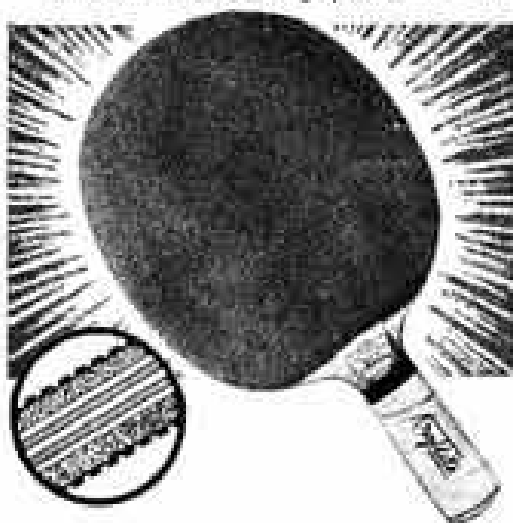
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Leading Averages

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

* denotes at least 75% of sets played at 1 or 2. Cup matches are included. Players with less than 10 appearances not included

DIVISION 1	P	W	%
*A. C. Taylor (Rafters)	54	52	96.29
*R. E. Gunnion (Bootle YM)	34	32	94.11
E. Mandaluff (L'pool YM)	56	51	91.16
D. Ferguson (Rafters)	60	49	81.66
*N. R. Jones (Balfour)	46	37	80.43
R. M. Rumjahn (Rafters)	56	44	78.57
*P. E. D'Arcy (L'pool YM)	50	39	78.00
*N. R. Jones (Linnets)	50	39	78.00
T. C. Coveney (L'pool YM)	64	49	76.56
*W. Harris (Oakhill)	52	39	75.00
G. K. Smith (L'pool YM)	48	36	75.00
M. Wallace (Balfour)	68	51	75.00

DIVISION 2	P	W	%
A. Williams (Bootle YM)	50	45	90.00
*A. Heyes (Lucem)	42	37	88.09
*M. Truman (Vic. Park) ? I. Rogerson (Bootle YM)	48	42	87.50
*R. Eden (Cadwa)	52	44	84.61
I. Brielye (Bohemians A)	50	42	84.00
T. Robinson (RAFA)	50	39	78.00
R. K. Mason (Vic. Park)	54	42	77.77
M. Travis (Cadwa)	26	20	76.92
	44	33	75.00

DIVISION 3	P	W	%
*F. Lacey (Linacre)	48	44	91.66
F. Pheseey (E.E.C.)	52	46	88.38
*J. R. Green (Linnets) ..	20	17	85.00
T. Bowden (Rafters) ..	58	45	77.58
G. Birch (Bootle YM) ..	48	37	77.08
*E. Smitton (E.E.C.) ..	52	40	76.92
*E. Mooney (Fairlawn) ..	64	49	76.56
*J. Davidson (Linacre) ..	48	36	75.00

DIVISION 4	P	W	%
F. Bamford (L'pool C.C.) ..	30	28	93.33
R. Burge (L'pool C.C.) ..	30	27	90.00
*B. Jacobs (L'pool C.C.) ..	56	50	89.28
M. Griffiths (L'pool C.C.) ..	34	30	88.23
*L. Lewis (L'pool C.C.) ..	58	50	86.20
R. Tyler (L'pool C.C.) ..	50	40	80.00
V.V. C. Leeming (Linnets B)	32	25	78.12
*Miss M. Francis (Oakhill B)	36	27	75.00

DIVISION 5	P	W	%
*A. Campbell (L'pool P.O.) ..	4	4	95.2
K. Roberts (Beauclair A) ..	4	4	90.0
N. Barooah (Nalگو)	4	4	86.6
V. Sheil (L'pool P.O.)	4	4	80.95
*C. Grimes (Beauclair A) ..	4	4	80.43
Mrs. K. Casselman (Rafters C)	4	4	76.6
V.V. Cornthwaite (L'pool P.O.)	4	4	66.1
*K. Harold (Beauclair A) ..	4	4	60.08
*N. Tudor (Bootle Nalگو) ..	4	4	75.00

DIVISION 6	P	W	%
*W. Wood (Crawfords)	5	47	87.5
E. Amoo (Stanley House) ..	4	40	83.3
*P. Cox (Crawfords)	4	48	82.7
*K. Roberts (Beauclair B) ..	17	14	81.8
*J. Catterson (L.P.A.S. B)	44	44	81.4
A. Harrison (Crawfords) ..	34	34	80.9
E. Hand (L'pool C.C. A)	37	37	80.4
*Mrs. J. Reynolds (Rafters D)	19	19	78.1
R. Meredith (L'pool C.C. A)	33	33	78.5
T. Partington (Crawfords) ..	42	42	77.7
*A. Lyn (Stanley House) ..	31	31	77.5
	0	0	0

DIVISION 7	P	W	%
*N. Crawshaw (Tech. Stud.)	44	41	93.28
A. Guy (Brenka)	52	47	90.34
K. Dutch (Linnets C)	32	28	87.50
B. Ridge (L'pool C.C. B) ..	26	22	84.61
V.V. Miller (Brenka)	44	37	84.08
B. Rockcliffe (Brenka)	52	43	82.68
R. Heath (Colonsay)	30	24	80.00
D. Spencer (Brenka)	38	30	78.94

DIVISION 8	P	W	%
*Lee Choong Sen (Mai. Coll.)	26	25	96.15
Paul Yeow Poh San (Mal. Coll.)	26	25	96.15
*Ho Kee Bow (Mai. Coll.) ..	22	21	95.45
*E. Dorfman (L'pool C.C. C)	28	26	92.85
Miss M. O'Donnell (Linnets E)	28	23	82.14
Albert Atkinson (Mai. Coll.)	26	20	76.92
*W. Dignan (Ches. Lines) ..	36	27	75.00

WOMEN—DIV. 1	P	W	%
*M. Willcox (Bohemians) ..	3	3	97.36
*M. Jones (Bohemians) ..	3	3	94.11
J. Randall (Bohemians) ..	3	3	87.50
G. Burns (Cadwa)	3	3	86.84
*M. Francis (Oakhill) ..	3	3	80.55
*J. Reynolds (Rafters)	3	3	78.12
*T. McCabe (Bibbys)	3	3	76.31

DOUBLES	P	W	%
P. Lawrence & I. Crafter ..	1	1	89.47
*M. Jones & M. Willcox A.	1	1	88.23
Bell & M. O'Donnell .. T.	1	1	68.7
A. Crafter & G. Burns ..	7	3	68.542

WOMEN—DIV. 2	P	W	%
*N. Cox (Crawfords)	32	31	96.87
*B. M. Topping (L'pool C.C.)	26	25	96.15
D. Lewis (L'pool C.C.)	20	18	90.00
*J. Horsley (Crawfords) ..	32	28	87.50
B. Horsley (Crawfords) ..	30	26	86.66
*M. King (L'pool C.C.)	30	26	86.66
N. Ford (Crawfords)	32	27	84.37

DOUBLES	P	W	%
J. Horsley & N. Ford	16	16	100.00
*B. Horsley & M. Cox	15	14	93.33
B. M. Topping & M. King ..	13	11	84.61

Around the Divisions

(by our Special Correspondents)

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Rafters	26	23	03	199	61	49	
L'pool YM . . .	26	22	2 2	190	70	46	
Bootle YM . . .	26	17	5 4	175	85	38	
Balfour	26	16	8 2	151	109	34	
L'pool YM A . .	26	14	8 4	152	108	32	
Bohemians . . .	26	15	10 1	138	122	31	
Oakhill	26	13	10 3	136	124	29	
Anfield	26	11	11 4	120	140	26	
Vic. Park . . .	26	10	14 2	122	138	22	
Wat. Dock . . .	26	8	15 3	112	148	19	
Rafters A . . .	26	4	18 4	88	172	12	
Linnet	26	4	18 4	84	176	12	
Bath Street . .	26	3 21 2	77 183	8			
Litherland . .	26	2 22 2	76 184	6			

CONGRATULATIONS to Rafters on holding their championship, and sympathy to Litherland and Bath Street who suffer relegation. Rafters have earned their title, having steadily fought off challenges from the two Y.M.C.A.'s. The issue was in doubt until the last four weeks, during which Liverpool Y.M.C.A. dropped two invaluable points to Balfour, and one to Rafters, thereby putting themselves _ right out of the running.

At the half-way mark it looked as though Linnets would be one for relegation, but a fighting finish pulled them clear, for which they must thank Roy Jones and Frank Thomas, for, with occasional support from the rest, they earned 12 points in the second half. Rafters "A" though never actually in the danger zone, were never far enough away from it to avoid worry, and they will need added strength for next season to keep away from the tail end. However, they have Jim Bowden and Frank Murphy in their "B" team who may soon add the extra bit required. The average age has been lowered by the introduction of such newcomers as John Higham (Oakhill), who has risen to the No. 2 spot in his team, Reg Gray (Anfield) and John Ball (Bootle Y.M.C.A.) who have played with some success, and the Linnets-teenage trio of Colin Thomas, Tony Green and Mike Cooper. We hope to see more youngsters coming in next year.

The League needs such a shot in the arm.
Jim Green

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Bootle YM A . .	26 23	3 0	190	70 46			
Bohs A	26 18	5 3	166	94 39			
Cadwa	26	18	5 3	164	96	39	
Vic. Park A . .	26	11	6 9	136	124	31	
Lucem	26	14	10 2	137	123	30	
L.P.A.S.	26	14	10 2	135	125	30	
R.A.F.A.	26	13	12 1	146	114	27	
Beauclair . . .	26	10	9 7	136	124	27	
Balfour A . . .	26	10	12 4	115	145	24	
Vic. Park B . .	26	7	14 5	111	149	19	
Wat. Park . . .	26	8	17 1	103	157	17	
University . . .	26	6	17 3	94	166	15	
Oakhill A . . .	26	4 20 2	99 161 10				
Bath St. A . . .	26	3 19 4	88 172 10				

BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. "A" won the division by seven clear points, and have thoroughly earned promotion by a sustained effort from the outset. It will be interesting to see how they fare in the top class next year. We wish them every success. Runners-up are Bohemians' "A" after a "photo-finish" with Cadwa—gaining second place by a mere TWO SETS. Tough for Cadwa, but sets count, and they can take consolation from the memory that one of their teams once reached a cup final by the even narrower margin of one point!

Bath Street "A" and Oakhill "A" with 10 points each are the unlucky pair for relegation, who must be hoping for the proposal to be carried at the A.G.M. for a twin-stream League which will allow them to keep 2nd division status. Although Bath Street have been in the 2nd for only three years, Oakhill have been here for some 12 seasons, and it does not seem likely that they will stay down long. University, despite conceding walk-overs right, left and centre, gained enough points to keep clear of relegation, and one can only express the hope that next time they will do better in keeping their commitments, and will play all due matches.

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Fairlawn . . .	26	22	22	185	75	46	
Rafters B . . .	26	19	61	175	85	39	
Linacre	26	16	64	162	98	36	
Linnit A	26	16	73	154	106	35	
L'pool Y.M.B	26	16	73	146	114	35	
Eng. Elec. . . .	26	11	87	133	127	29	
Bootle Y.M.B	26	13	112	134	126	28	
Sefton	26	11	132	142	118	24	
Anfield A . . .	26	9	143	117	143	21	
Bohs B	26	7	145	112	148	19	
Litherland A	26	7	127	117	143	16	
Vic. Park C	26	6	164	104	156	16	
Cadwa A	26	5	192	99	161	12	
Balfour B . . .	26	4	220	40	220	8	

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool C.C. . .	24	23	10	219	21	46	
L.P.A.S. A . .	24	18	60	147	93	36	
Linnet B	24	15	54	143	97	34	
Bath St. B . .	24	13	92	136	104	28	
Oakhill B . . .	24	11	85	125	115	27	
Wat. Park A	24	10	95	126	114	25	
Wvrtree Lab. .	24	11	130	93	147	22	
Cadwa B	24	9	123	115	124	21	
Bootle Y.M.C	24	10	131	112	128	21	
Wat. Dock A	24	7	134	103	137	18	
Vic. Park D	24	6	153	96	144	15	
Litherland B	24	4	182	64	176	10	
Anfield B . . .	24	2	175	80	159	9	

AS forecast when Wavertree

Labour were penalised, the Cricket Club simply walked this division.

It was obvious, long before the season finished, that as far as the Championship was concerned nearly every game played in this division was a mere formality, the only points of interest being the team which would be promoted with the Cricket Club, and the ones to be relegated.

Police "A" are to be congratulated on their promotion in spite of having a match claimed from them by Bootle Y.M.C.A. "C"—a fate which also befell Wavertree Labour and Litherland "B"—apparently due to these teams not having noted the division, only Anfield "B" must face up to the prospect of Division 5 Table Tennis next season—Litherland "B" being saved from that fate by the withdrawal of Balfour "B".

The most spectacular rise in this division was by Oakhill "B". Only a couple of months ago they were deeply involved in the relegation struggle, but for no apparent reason the same players who had previously been losing suddenly came into form and rose steadily up the table to finish in fifth place.

It is interesting to note that such was the Cricket Club's supremacy that of the 20 sets which they lost, eight were to the Wavertree Labour side and eight by reserve players, only four being debitted to their regular team.

R. L. Davies

I AM naturally very pleased that my own team, Fairlawn, succeeded in winning the division this season, and also managed to reach the final of the Rumjahn Cup. The team has played with great enthusiasm and keenness in all matches, and when one or two have been off form, the rest have produced that extra effort to ensure a win. In particular, Edgar Mooney, playing always at No. 1, finished top of the team's averages, whilst Peter Whalley, at No. 4, was not far behind. Brian Carter and brother John also played their parts, and we were extremely fortunate to have such a capable reserve as Len Carter to call on in emergencies. Congratulations to Rafters 'B' on finishing the season as runners-up. Their most consistent player has been Jim Bowden, while Eric Caird, Ralph Charlton, Frank Murphy and Bill Lamb made this a very difficult team to beat.

The improved play of Gordon Birch (Bootle Y.M.C.A.) has been watched with great interest, and his results in both the League and in the City Junior games indicate a very promising future for him. Well done!

Linnets- "A", in my opinion, would have ensured a promotion place for themselves if they had been able to field a regular team. Their ranking list was very formidable, but only Dennis Underhill and Ron McEvoy have been able to appear regularly.

Brian Leeson.

Division 5

	P	W	LD	F	A	P
L'pool P.O. .	24	20	2 2	178	62	44
Fairlawn A .	24	19	4 1	165	75	39
Rafters C . .	24	16	6 2	158	82	34
Beauclair A .	24	IS	6 3	161	79	33
St. Eds. OB	24	12	6 6	154	86	30
Nalگو.....	24	13	8 3	148	92	29
Wav. Lab. A	24	11	13 0	94	146	22
L'pool YM C	24	8	11 5	120	120	21
Bohs C . . .	24	9	13 2	118	122	20
Bootle Nalگو	24	5	16 3	73	167	13
Wat. Park B	24	5	17 2	72	168	12
Dom. Mission	24	4 20 0	62 178	8		
Fairlawn B .	24	3 20 1	57 183	7		

IT proved a fitting climax to an interesting season when Liverpool Post Office finished as divisional champions, with Fairlawn "A" as runners-up. No-one can deny that they have been the most consistent sides throughout, and whilst Beauclair "A" (with K. Roberts' very prominent) put in a late challenge, they could not overhaul the leaders. Post Office had three very tight matches against Rafters "C", St. Edwards and Beauclair "A", winning each 6-4; A. Campbell winning all his six sets.

Both St. Edwards and Nalگو have provided strong opposition for the top three clubs with either wins or draws to their credit, but Nalگو had a disappointing final few matches' as their clubroom was out of order, and matches had to be played away, thanks to the courtesy and willing co-operation of their opponents. N*. Barooah has had an extremely good season for Nalگو, who, together with their Bootle counterparts, conceded 10-0 walk-overs to Fairlawn "B".

Generally, sportsmanship and sociability have been foremost in matches played, and a special word of commendation to the Rafters club in this respect. May we hope that next season will bring better attendance and even better play in all matches, and to the promoted teams, success in your higher sphere.

Les Harper

Division 6

	P	W	LD	F	A	P
Crawfords . .	26	24	0 2	214	46	50
L'pool C.C. A	26	20	1 5	201	59	45
Crawfords A	26	21	3 2	187	73	44
Eng. Elec. A	26	17	4 5	173	87	39
Stanley House	26	16	7 3	157	103	35
L.P.A.S. B . .	26	12	10 4	143	117	28
Eng. Elec. B	26	11	12 3	132	128	25
University A	26	10	14 2	124	136	22
Bath St. C .	26	8	15 3	109	151	19
Nalگو A . . .	26	9	16 1	101	159	19
Beauclair B .	26	8	17 1	101	159	17
Rafters D . .	26	4	19 3	102	158	11
Wav. Lab. B	26	2 22 2	49 211	6		
Anfield C . .	26	2 24 0	27 233	4		

HAIL Crawfords' as worthy champions. How nice to be able to couple a good team with a good club. Their playing facilities must be about the best in the city. To all of the team—well-done—with merit marks to Wood and Cox for bearing the brunt of the attack and coming out top. Also to wooden spoonists Anfield a word of praise, especially to Piper, Christian and Miss Turner, for adding to the "sets for". English Electric "A" on the receiving end of two shocks—despite a Longstaffe double, a defeat by Stanley House, also a draw with Police although there was a Catterson blank. McLachlan and Woodi scored doubles. A great point by Bath Stiet from Cricket Club, with two each from Roberts and Berry.

University v. Beauclair—match abandoned—*rain stopped play! Two victories each from Roberts and Pratt gave Beauclair a good win over Nalگو (Dawn 2). They were also 4-1 up over Stanley House only to suffer a 6-4 loss due to a great fight back.

I am not one who makes heavy weather of the odd player not arriving, or worrying because every other player is not an 11 plus type. I am worried and annoyed when we are deprived of our matches as some of us have been towards the end of the season. Otherwise, I think, a good time has been had by all. Contact me if you feel like a close-season game and chat.

Jack Lambert

*Rain through broken windows.

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

Double for Bohemians

(by Eileen Mansell)

	WOMEN'S DIV. 1					
	P	W	L	D	F	A P
Bohemians ..	16	1	0	1	12	37 31
Cadwa	16	3	3	0	13	45 26
Rafters	16	3	3	2	19	59 24
Oakhill	16	6	8	2	84	76 14
Linnet	16	5	7	4	70	90 14
Bibbys	16	5	1	1	73	87 11
Cadwa A	16	5	0	0	58	10 10
Orrell	16	3	1	2	51	10 8
Bath Street ..	16	2	1	2	45	13 5

	WOMEN'S DIV 2					
	P	W	L	D	F	A P
Crawfords ..	14	1	1	0	12	17 2
L'pool C.C. .	14	3	3	0	19	38 2
Bohs A	14	9	5	0	82	53 1
Rafters A ..	14	8	5	1	80	60 3
Bath St. A .	14	7	5	2	79	61 7
Bibbys A . .	14	4	9	1	61	79 0
Bootle Nalgo	14	2	1	0	23	117 4
Tech. Studs.	14	0	1	0	5	135 0

An Apology

MY apologies to the Orrel Club for stating that they had struggled for years in the 2nd Division before promotion to the 1st. In actual fact they were only in the 2nd for one season when they first joined us, and won it hands down. My memory let me down on this occasion, and I hope that the Orrel team will accept my apologies. In future I shall not have to rely so much on my memory.

And Congratulations

Bohemians have dominated the 1st Division for some years, so it was not surprising that once more they are Champions, also retaining their hold on the Bartholomew Cup. Congratulations on their fine achievement.

Crawfords also maintained their place at the top of the 2nd Division, with the Liverpool Cricket Club a close second, both being away ahead of the remainder.

Cadwa and Rafters were neck and neck for second place to Bohemians, both with the same points, but Cadwa gain second place by virtue of the better sets average.

Bath Street, surprisingly, have finished bottom of the 1st Division, possibly because Barbara Taylor had to withdraw from the team half-way through, which weakened the side somewhat. Orrel just couldn't make up the leeway, and finish next to bottom. They will be sorry to be without Enid Bray next year, for she has been with them for some time, but she and her husband are moving to the East coast.

Technical Students have not had a very good season, but I hope that this will not deter them from coming in again, for better fortune should come their way before long.

It was good to see Bluey C'as'selman back in the division again, and doing very well too. I hope to see all of the "old faithfuls" back in this sphere next season, for without them there would not be a Women's division, and the majority have shown consistently that they prefer to play in their own division than take part in the "mixed".

Bohemians Take Bartholomew Cup

The Bartholomew Cup final, Bohemians v. Rafters, was played at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. before a disappointingly small number of spectators, although we were all delighted to see once again Olive Dickinson, who although she has now retired from active play, always turns up on these occasions, and she very kindly consented to present the Cup and plaques at the end of the match.

Rafters- altered their team order, playing Gloria Greeley at 1, with Bluey Casselman, Jean Reynolds Elizabeth Loughrey at 2, 3 and 4 respectively, but the move didn't pay off. The Bohemians side were out to retain the Cup and produced a brilliant display. But the best match of the evening was between Bluey and Joyce Randall, with both at the very top of their form, Bluey defending at her best, and Joyce with a devastating attack on both wings. Joyce played about her best set of the season, and though she

beat Bluey in two straight, she had a terrific struggle to do so, for Bluey brought back many shots which might well have been "winners" from all over the room. A spectacular display. Moya Jones had an easy win over Gloria (who seemed nervous in her unaccustomed No. 1 spot), but had to fight against Bluey, just scraping home in the first game 21-19, from 19-all. The second game went to Moya more comfortably at 13. Muriel Willcox had two very easy sets against Gloria and Jean Reynolds, for although the Rafter's girls played their best, she had little difficulty in coasting home.

Audrey Gee just could not settle down in the first set of the evening against Jean, who won very comfortably, as did Elizabeth Loughrey, also against Audrey. Elizabeth gave Joyce Randall a tough fight, the match going to 19-all in the third before Joyce won. Elizabeth certainly showed her team how it was done. She played beautifully catching Joyce on the wrong foot many times, particularly with her back-hand.

Bohs eventually ran out winners 7-3, after a match which everyone appeared to thoroughly enjoy, and though certain of the sets seemed one-sided, on the whole it was a most enjoyable evening.

CROSSWORD

Congratulations to Jim Bowden on sending in the only correct solution to the *Digest* Crossword Puzzle set last month.

The solution will be exhibited at the Annual General Meeting for the benefit of anyone interested.

What's in Store

(Jack McCaig)

IT is difficult to avoid the conclusion that next season will not be a great improvement upon the one just ended, although new prospects CAN emerge during the course of about five months. Where potential City players are to come from I just would not know, although with the exception of Manchester, I find that the position is very general throughout Lancashire and Cheshire. It was particularly disappointing when at last we found ourselves in a fairly strong position as far as the Men's 1st team was concerned, to suddenly be deprived of the services of the player who had come along at such an opportune moment and had reinforced the team to such an extent that Liverpool was at last a force to be reckoned with. I refer, of course, to Ralph Gunnion, who left the district to take up a new appointment. The fact that the player was willing to travel up from Birmingham for inter-city games was a worthy offer, but so fraught with danger of late trains, fog, snow etc., that the suggestion had to be reluctantly declined by the Selection Committee.

The Ladies teams are in no better state than the men, and with such an alarming drop in the entries for the "Closed" I feel that next season will need a real shot in the arm somewhere along the line.

The Juniors seem to be in the same poor way, and it seems futile to me to run TWO teams in the League when entries for the "Closed" could only amount to a miserable nine. There is surely food for thought all the way round.

RUMJAHN CUP

THIS final was a match which could well have started with a bad atmosphere (says Eddie Cameron), for the Cricket Club were playing much against their will on a night of the Management Committee's choosing—a choice which meant reserves for them. A protest was made some days before the match, and Fairlawn were more than a little bothered and bewildered to be handed a copy of a further protest immediately before the game started. Whatever fears there may have been, however, that this atmosphere were soon dispelled, and we were treated to a game which surpassed many previous finals in endeavour, enthusiasm and sportsmanship, a game which does a great deal of credit to the teams involved and proves that the Liverpool League is not a failure in all its aspects.

The Cricket Club produced its "secret weapon" in Dick Burge. Some of us know Dick of old. His tantalising slow defence has not changed much, and the the inexperience of Peter Whalley played into the hands of such an old

kidologist. Edgar Mooney soon put the game all square with a polished display against Les Lewis, and back came Burge, luckily finding a second inexperienced player in Brian Carter, and once again he bamboozled his way to a win. The game was levelled at 2-2 with Len Carter showing that the Cricket Club had no monopoly of old-timers and then, surprisingly, Brian Leeson failed to find his true game and went down two straight to Ray Tyler. Edgar Mooney again delighted the onlookers with an excellent game against Barry Jacobs, and Brian Carter now had the onerous job of putting Fairlawn ahead, knowing that to lose at this stage would put the odds greatly on the Cricket Club. He lost 18-21 in the third. Tyler completed his double with a win over Whalley and the rival Captains fought out the decider, which again went with experience to Les Lewis. A limping Len Carter finished off the evening with an exhibition against Barry Jacobs, and without doubt a good time was had by all. So for the first time, a Cup went to the Cricket Club.

Readman Cup Dispute

Dear Sir,

In all sports the official governing bodies are the continual targets of abuse and criticism. In many cases the fact that the elected officers are unpaid, unthanked and unsparing in their efforts to promote the interests of their sport is usually forgotten. Sensible and justified criticism of such bodies is always difficult in the light of the many good works which they perform.

Nevertheless, we consider that the action of the Management Committee in relation to the request for a postponement of the replay of the Readman Cup Final deserves to be severely criticised.

Most readers will be familiar with the facts of the incident. Sufficient to say that the Management Committee refused to re-arrange the replay of the Readman Cup Final and both Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and ourselves expressed our disgust by turning out non-first team sides and returning the Cup and all medals immediately after the formalities of the presentation.

We submit that our case for a postponement was not only strong but undeniable. The application for the postponement was made by both Captains a full week before the date set down for the replay. The reason for the application was that six of the ten players involved were unavailable. The strongest reason of all, however, was that Gunnion, Morris and D'Arcy had all entered for the Scottish Open. Thus, here we had three Liverpool players whose enthusiasm was such that they were prepared to travel to Scotland and enhance the name and reputation of Liverpool Table Tennis, if only by their presence. It would appear that their presence was really felt for not only did Morris and D'Arcy give very creditable performances, but Ralph Gunnion won the Open-Singles title. Is it not reasonable to suppose that the Management Committee would have rewarded the enthusiasm of these three by agreeing to postpone the replay?

Furthermore, the Management Committee can hardly be relieved

of all responsibility for the Semi-Final Replay fiasco between Linnets and ourselves. It was unfortunate, especially for Gunnion who had travelled from Birmingham, that a member of the Linnets team knew of the rule, the effect of which was to cancel any cup semi-final or final in the event of the Management Committee's appointed referee not being in charge by eight o'clock. Once eight o'clock arrived the rule was invoked as the referee was not present, and the match was cancelled. We do not seek to lay any blame for this- but merely suggest that in the light of this unfortunate incident our subsequent application for a postponement of the Final replay should have received a lot more sympathy and consideration.

Actions speak louder than words, and we hope that by abstaining from participating in the Final Replay and by returning the Cup and all the medals we might at least dent the armour of the Management Committee. Let nobody think that the action which we took was easy. It involved a great sacrifice from all concerned. Especially is this so for those available players who had to sit at home and twiddle their thumbs whilst the Cup which they had spent a season fighting for was being won, lost and returned. We had never won the Cup before and to win it was our greatest ambition. But where's the achievement in either side winning against a depleted opponent? At least both we and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. can honestly say that to us it is the game and not its Cups and medals which is the important thing.

It would seem that in the light of this and other similar decisions which the Management Committee have taken "this season, guidance is needed as to where their duty lies. May we presume to suggest that their duty is to foster, and not kill, enthusiasm, to administer and apply the spirit and not the letter of the rules and regulations, and to serve and protect and not disregard the welfare of their members.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. 1st Team Members

and now it's the Rumjahn Cup

Dear Sir,

We wish to bring to the notice of the table tennis public a state of affairs which we consider damaging to the game in Liverpool and feel that in permitting it to occur the Management Committee have disregarded the wishes of a section of members by whom they were elected and purport to serve.

This is the case, which I urge you all to read, as- it could easily happen to your club in the future.

The Cricket Club were due to play Fairlawn in the Rumjahn Cup Final. Three weeks before the week this final was due to be played we addressed a letter to the League Match Secretary, requesting that this match be played on any night other than a Friday, as it would probably mean us fielding three reserves. We pointed out that the League had laid down that the match be played in week commencing March 5th but did not specify Friday. We also informed them of a certain table which could be used any night that week.

No reply even of acknowledgment was forthcoming from that letter.

You can imagine our disgust and astonishment when told that (in spite of our seemingly simple request) we would have to play on the Friday. When asked on what grounds this decision was reached, we were told that it was usual to hold these matches on a Friday as most convenient.

Note two words here, "usual" and "convenient".

It has only been "usual" in the last two or three years to hold semi-finals and finals on a Friday. Indeed we have a semi-final replay being played on a Wednesday this week.

Now the word "convenient". Friday is so convenient to members of the Management Committee that one semi-final was played (in complete contravention of the rules) without an official being present at all. Another was played with the

official in charge absenting himself for half the match. Yet another semi-final was never started because of the absence of the official in charge. These same people have the audacity to use the word "convenient". How laughable if it were not so tragic.

After hearing of the decision of the Management Committee, we immediately handed in a letter asking for a personal hearing by the Appeal Board. We were told that this would have to have the sanction of the Management Committee before it went to the Board of Appeal, and that it was Very doubtful if the Board of Appeal would ever see it, because the letter of the law says—we can only appeal against a rule. Apparently no one can appeal against a ruling.

After all, we play the game for pleasure, and there is obviously no pleasure for either ourselves or opponents playing a very below strength team.

Surely success turns very sour and cups and medals lose their shine when gained in such a manner as this, or when it is derived] by claiming sets and matches.

In conclusion all we can add is that as far as we are concerned this may be Table Tennis but it certainly is not "Cricket".

Yours faithfully,

R. L. Davies,
Liverpool Cricket Club

Editor's Note

Subscribers will recall that mention was made in the last issue of the *Digest* of the receipt of the above letter, the publication of which was withheld on the grounds that the matter was subjudice, it having been referred to the Board of Appeal. The letter should be read with this fact in mind. As a matter of interest we believe that the Board of Appeal upheld the appeal of the Cricket Club but decided that no action should be taken thereon.

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