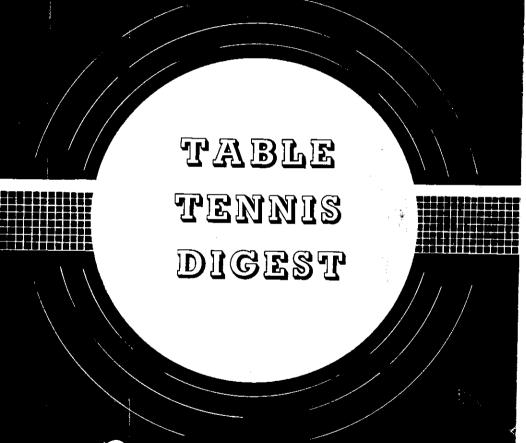
Volume XIII. Number 2.



TO JANUARY, 1963.

Price 6d.



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., Alhadale, Southport. Published during the months of November, january, February, March and April.

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Vol. XIII

January, 1963

No. 2

EDITORIAL

WE were interested to receive an article from Peter Rix making reference to the proposal which we made in the "Digest" last season wherein we suggested that the present system of awarding two points for a 'win' and one for a 'draw' be discontinued and replaced by the awarding of a point for each set won. We make no apology for again referring to this suggestion in the light of the research which Peter Rix has been undertaking on his own behalf, from which it would appear that there is at least some support for what we feel to be a very worthwhile recommendation.

It was the Feature Editor's intention to take up Mr. Rix's suggestion of a secret ballot purely to ascertain the strength of feeling within the League, but on reflection we have decided that this would be quite improper as the machinery is there for amendment to League Rules without having to resort to ballots (secret or otherwise).

There can be only one guiding feature in matters of this kind—the strength of public opinion. We believe that if somebody wants something badly enough they will take the proper steps to secure their wishes and we strongly recommend that each member of the League gives thought to Mr. Rix's article and, if in agreement, brings proper pressure to bear on the representative of his club at the next Annual General Meeting to see that a proper amendment to the rules is tabled in good time and that full support is marshalled for the vote on the issue. In this way a change will be brought about because members want it. If they don't—the voting will show it which leads us to a further point, namely, that hardy annual—the Management Committee. Hardly a month goes by without our receiving some form of criticism of the Management Committee which, to our mind, is somewhat unfortunate in that when all is said and done, the Management Committee is in office only because YOU put them there and remain there only because YOU are unable, or reluctant, to find other people to do their job. If you are dissatisfied with the Committee the remedy is in your own hands. If you are not prepared to make changes (and on the evidence of the last three A.G.M's. you are not) then, at least, support the Committee and not decry their efforts on your behalf.

MOYA JONES

N 1949, when she first took up table tennis, it is doubtful if anyone realised that Moya Jones (Bohemians) would become the Leagues' foremost lady player and mainstay of our city Women's team. For this was the heyday of Andree Iones and Eileen Mansell, the May twins and Bervl Waterson (to name but a few), and the prospects of breaking into the top flight seemed remote. 1954 found her in the Liverpool team for the first time, semifinalist in the Closed Womens' Singles, and (with Bernard Hand) Mixed Doubles winner. Since which time Mova has won the Singles three times, the Mixed Doubles four more times, and the Women's Doubles three times.

No full record of her Liverpool appearances in the Lancashire League is available, but so far as memory serves, she has played more than 50 times winning about 70% of her sets, and last season she made her (long overdue) debut for Lancashire, playing against Yorkshire, Surrey and Middlesex.

Her Open tournament appearances have been few, due to her having to work on Saturdays, but in 1958, together with Vic Chesham, she won the Mixed in the Cheshire Open, losing in the semi-final of the Singles after having removed the No. 1 seed (Audrey Bates).

In addition to her table tennis achievements, Moya has been a regular member of Bohemians as Ladies Lawn Tennis team for ten seasons, during which time they

have been the Liverpool Group champions three times, and last season won a County knock-out club competition. She has won the club's Ladies Singles eight times (a record) and has many times represented the Liverpool Group in inter-League matches. So her activities, both summer and winter, have brought much credit to Bohemians. And, may it be said, her winter efforts in our own particular sport have brought credit to the League, as well as to her club and to herself. Always extremely smartly turned out (as indeed are our lady players generally) over the years she has proved both a modest winner and a graceful loser. On those rare occasions when she is beaten, she does not follow the accepted practice by explaining how her own lack of form was the cause, but invariably gives credit to her opponent-a most unusual but very happy trait.

As Moya would herself agree, it would be most unfair to omit mention of the male members of Bohemians who practised with her for so many hours (in particular her husband, Ken) and whose continued help added to her own determination, assisted her to reach the top.

There is no doubt that Moya's list of successes is far from finished, and she may yet reach heights hitherto unattained, but we venture to think that she will remain what she has always been, a player who might, in every respect, be taken as a model by a new entrant to the game.

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BRING BACK THE REGIONS!

WE constantly hear of the lack of interest and enthusiasm. these two qualities deliberately killed by the abolition of the Regions. Not long ago, players at the tail end of the League, formed ipto Regions, were provided with actimatics which aroused interest and standard enthusiasm. Each Region held its own Regional tournament. Each had, selected from its members, a team which played competitively against teams from the other Regions, and at Dingle Vale, there were "Regional Singles" open only to those who were "grouped" to play in one Region or another. All of which activities gave incentive to the lewest level of League players. They were events eagerly looked forward to by those concerned, and to be chosen to represent the Region was considered something of an honour. But these were all done away with, to be replaced by NOTHING!

No new players coming up? Well, cast your minds back, those who can-remember Arthur Taylor, Basil Townsend, Eddie Clein, Ted Mandaluff and Jack Seddon as Regional players? Do you recollect the first two named playing for Liverpool while still in the Regions-brought to the notice of the Selectors by their performances among the lesser How many of the present lowest four divisional players are even known to them by name, let alone ability. And what incentive are teams outside the 1st division given, to enter the "Closed" now that the Regional Singles have been abandoned? The Consolation Singles -won by some 1st division wallah every time.

BRING BACK THE REGIONS after Division 4. Based, not on the previous stupid geographical grounds, which provided ill-balanced divisions, but into Regions "A", "B", "C" and "D" into which teams would be placed as nearly as possible in their own district, but at least in uniform numbers. Let them each have a tournament of their own as used to be their pleasure, and have their inter-Regional matches between teams of their own players. Slaughter

this system of doling out extra prizes to first division players of insufficient ability to survive the first round of the Close by scrubbing the profitless, ill-conceived Consolation Singles, and institute the Regional Singles for those who are "not so mighty."

Many can remember the late Bill Stamp bemoaning that more had entered the Regional Singles than had gone in for the Men's Singles. Sure they had. They had entered their own little lot, in which each thought he had some chance, instead of being the subject of a Roman holiday for the elite. And, what must be remembered at the same time, they paid for that privilege. They did not get a prize as consolation for contriving to lose in the first round.

This is where most of the enthusiasm has gone. These events which were much to the lower level League members, from whom all future 1st division players must by natural forces come, were slung out of the window, with the result that the "Closed" entries go down, and a general atmosphere of gloom and despondency hangs over the League as a whole. Give the lesser light a chance to shine in his own sphere, and from his consequent enjoyment enthusiasm will be bred. We all know that the big shots were not interested in Regional matters, but from the Regions came the majority of to-day's big shots," and en-thusiasm bred in the lower strata will produce the players for tomorrow's top divisions. Had the Regions been re-organised rather than slain, far more interest would have remained.

How many players from the present 7th and 8th Divisions will play in the "Closed." How do the teams of the 8th Division feel about having at LEAST eight years climbing the League?

The Regions supplied players year by year, and given the chance can do so again, so instead of moaning about there being no new players coming up, BRING BACK THE REGIONS and let them provide them as they did so very ably in the past.

The Financial aspect of the Open Championships

By the Treasurer.

OR the second successive year I am pleased to report that the Merseyside Open Championships has resulted in financial gain to the League, albeit a small one. The final result was a profit of £II-3-IO, which is almost double that of the previous year. Whilst it is not the prime purpose of the tournament to make huge profits, it is very encouraging to those who put in so much hard work to know that some financial gain has accrued to the League by reason of their efforts.

Once again I would mention that this result was mainly due to the excellent support the Open received from outside entrants, and from spectators. At the same time we managed to keep down expenses (saving about £4 in this direction). For those interested, the bald details are set out below, and any comments would be welcomed.

Receipts.	Payments.	
Entry Pees 66 ETTA Fees 11 Door Receipts 9 Catering Profit 2	ETTA Fees Balls Prizes Printing Gratuities Players' Expenses	£ 11 4 25 11 10 1
	Sundry Expenses Profit	11
₹88		_ £88 —

Once again our thanks are due to Dunlops for their co-operation throughout and for letting us have the use of their canteen. Imagine the result had we to finance such accommodation ourselves!

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THE OAKHILL AFFAIR

S most of you are no doubt aware the Committee have recently been reluctantly forced to impose a rather severe penalty upon the Oakhill YMCA club. I use the word "reluctantly." because the Committee never takes pleasure in penalising any club, for, although our primary function is to manage, we also have a duty to ensure that the rules made by you are conformed to.

The Committee have deliberately refrained from making any comment on this matter previously because the case was not closed, but we feel that we must now put the full and correct facts before you, particularly in view of the fact that reports of the matter in the local Press, which many of you may have read, were not a true account of the offences committed or the penalties imposed by the Committee.

In the early matches of the season, the Oakhill club played 7 unregistered players in their various teams, and when this matter was brought to the notice of the Committee, Oakhill were given about 5 days (in fact until midnight 1st November) in which to bring their registrations up-to-date, failing which, they were suspended from that time until the Committee lifted the suspension. The necessary registration forms were NOT in the Fixture Secretary's hands by the due date, and they were then automatically suspended until November 5th (that being the date on which the Fixture Secretary received the required forms).

Despite the Committee's suspension the Oakhill club played a match in the Three-a-Side League on Friday, November 2nd, and I have in my possession a letter from the (then) Secretary of the Oakhill YMCA club which admits that the seven unregistered players DID take part in the matches concerned, and that he was aware, at the time that they played, that they were not registered. The letter also states that, despite the fact that he was fully aware that the club was suspended at that time, he allowed a League match to be played on November 2nd.

After a great deal of discussion and argument, for the Committee were by no means all of the same opinion as to the penalty to impose, (they rarely are in such cases), the following penalties were imposed on the Oakhill club:

(a) For playing seven unregistered players the club was ordered to forfeit any points or sets won in a match in which an unregistered player had taken part.

(b) For playing a match in direct contravention of the Committee's suspension ruling, the Oakhill club was suspended from all home matches for the remainder of the season, the home records of all of their teams to be expunged from the records, and all their teams expelled from Cup competitions.

The Oakhill club accepted the first part of the penalty, and this part of the matter closed there and then. But they appealed against the second penalty, and although the Committee would have been perfectly within their rights in even refusing to accept any appeal (for in accordance with the rules, the Oakhill club had no legitimate grounds upon which to lodge one) we agreed to allow the matter to be submitted to the Board of Appeal, and this Board duly met to consider the case.

The representatives of the Oakhill Club brought some fresh evidence to the Board of Appeal, and they themselves were also acquainted with certain facts concerning the case, of which they were apparently not previously aware.

As a result, the Oakhill club withdrew their appeal, and, having consulted the Chairman on the matter, I promised to put this fresh evidence before the Committee at their next meeting and give the Committee a further chance to review the whole situation. This step was NOT taken because we were unsure of ourselves in the decision already taken, but we felt that if any new facts had come to light it was our daty to take them into account.

Members of the Committee were then compared by use and a majority decision obtained to allow Oakhill to play their home matches until the description of our next meeting without projective to any decision we might come to at that meeting. This again may seem an unusual step, but (once again contrary to the forcibly expressed opinions of certain members of the League) the Committee DORS have the interests of the clubs appermost in its deliberations, and we felt that, as we were going to reconsider the matter, it was untain to the Oakbill club to be penalised until we had made a final decision. At our meeting held on December aret the Committee reconsidered the matter, taking into account the new

facts in our possession, and (brice again after lengthy diagnosism) came to the consusion that the position and that therefore our original penalty stood.

therefore our original penalty stood. I make no apology for this lengthy discourse on one item, believing that the members should, wherever possible, be fully acquainted with the happenings at Committee meetings,

You may, or may not, agree with the decisions that we have taken in this matter. We do not claim to be infallible, nor to please everybody, but I hope you will agree that we have gone to some lengths to be fair to the club concerned, and have not just arrived at a histy decision and then shut the door to any further discussion on the matter.

Around the Division

(By our Special Correspondents)

Division !

	\boldsymbol{P}	W	L	D	·F	A	P		
L pool YMCA	II	II	0	o	91	19	22		
Rafters	12	10	I	Ŧ	92	28	21		
Bohs	13		2	1	92	38	2 I		
L'pool YM A	II	. 7	3	1	66	44	15		
Africid	12	6	4	2	59	61	14		
Beetle YM	11	6			69		13		
Ballytir	11	5			54		12		
Rights A	12	3	7	2	46	74	- 8		
Wat Bock	12	3	7	2	43	77	8		
Limitets	10	0	б	4	34	66	4		
Victoria Pk.	12	1	9	2	40	80	4		
Bootle YM A	13					93			
Dohs. A.	12					89	3		
Oakhill	10	7			18		3		
Note. Oakh									
putiged from Opponents' Records.									

THE unhappy incident affecting Oakhill has thrown a blight on to the division as well as removing one of the few teams which might have been able to challenge Rafters and Liverpool YM for the lead. Bohemians having dropped five points to Balfour (1), Liverpool YM (2) and Rafters (2) - this latter despite the inclusion of Clein-are more or less out of it now unless some miracle occurs. So it looks as if we shall not Rinow the new champions until the Rafters and Liverpool YM. Liverpool YM 'A' team hope to finish in the top four places according to one of

the team, and if determination has anything to do with it they might make it, especially now that they have been much strengthened by the replacement of Bradshaw by Ken Roberts, who after a very good season with Beauclair last year, started at 1 in the YM 'B' team, was inheaten after 7 matches, moved up and has to date won 13 sets from 14 played. His sole loss was to Deve Butterworth in the Readman Cap, but he had consolation in Bobby Own the same night. Which is the sort of newcomer we waste.

The other end of the table 🏗 Bootle YM 'A', Linnets, Victoria ... and Bohemians A engaged in a cut-throat battle to avoid relegation. Such is the situation that the loss of one player can mean a tremendous difference, and Cleins transfer from Victoria Park to Bohemishe might have the effect of pushing his old club down while helping his new club's second string to escape. Vet, strangely, the Park got their first three points of the season after be had left, so it seems that they are not going to go down quietly. This dog-fight is going to be as bitter as it can be, and before the end of the season places may be changed week Atthough Oakhall are by week. down mear the bottom, there is no fear that they will remain there, and Anfield, having signed Freddic Cuff and Maurice Oakes have no worries. Rafters 'A' already have enough points to give them a mice comfortable feeling, and it is unlikely that Waterleo Dock will be drawn into the scramble, so we now wait to see who will survive from the bottom four.

Which leaves little to say other than to offer the plous hope that we have seen the last of 'incidents'.

Jim Green.

Division 2

	P	w	L	v	r	A	P
Cadwa	10	IO	0	0	88	12	20
Lucem	ΙĮ	8	I	2	76	33	18
Fairlawn	II	8	2	I	68	42	17
Beauclair	II	5	4	2	57	53	12
Bath St	11	5	4	2	53	57	12
University .	11	5	4	2	51	59	12
RAFA	10	4				45	
LPAS	II	3				63	
Waterloo Park	II	3	8	0	42	68	6
Vic. Pk. 'A'	9	3	6	0	34	56	6
Rafters 'B'	9	2	6	1	33	57	5
Vic. Pk. 'B'	II	0	11				ō

WHILE Cadwa continue to dispose of all opposition, the battle for second place has been intensified by Lucem's 6-4 win at Fairlawn. This victory puts Lucem into second place with a one point lead over their rivals for a 1st division place. An interesting fact also, is that this defeat for Fairlawn records their first League reversal at home, since October 1961.

A. Heyes, Lucem's No. 1, and their most consistent player, has lost only three events, to Stan Woosling (RAFA), Harold Willcock (Cadwa) and D. Reed (University).

The University team appear to be outsiders in the promotion race. In D. Reed, their Captain and No. 1, they have a player of great ability, who has lost only one set to date (to Eddie Mooney of Fairlawn) but apart from this he has gone undefeated, his record including wins over both Willcock and R. Eden at Cadwa. His closest victory was against Stan Wooding (RAFA) when he scraped home 21-17, 19-21, 22-20.

Beauclair's results are usually very close, and this side could have a very important say in the final placings at the tip of the table, with home games to come against both Fairlawn and Lucem. The three most success-

ful players in the Beauclair side to date are, in order of merit, C. Grimes, B. Pardy and D. Inge.

Waterloo Park are finding the opposition rather strong, and the only points their players have won to date have been at the expense of the two Victoria Park teams.

Two other teams which are experiencing some difficulty in winning league points are Rafters 'B' and LPAS. Rafters recently had a good win over Waterloo Park 7-3, which eased their position somewhat, but how close it was! W. Lamb, the Rafter's Captain, won both his events at 22-20 in the third game, his unfortunate victims being W. Spencer and A. Hayden, while Mrs. Reynolds beat Ken Nelson 22-20, 19-21, 21-19. Very tough on the losers but highly satisfying to the Rafter's team.

The Police recently gained a valuable point by holding University to a draw at Anfield Road. J. Moneypenny won his two games, while Hough, Bracewell and Heague collected one each. For the 'Varsity' Reed won his customary two sets, the other three coming from Snyder, Howard and Dingley.

Brian Leeson.

Division 3

PWLDFAPL'pool YM 'B' 10 1 1 79 21 17 3 1 80 40 17 Linacre 12 L'pool C.C. 8 1 0 66 24 16 Q Eng. Elec. 10 7 1 2 65 35 16 Bohs. 'B' LPAS 'A' 11 5 4 2 54 56 12 II 5 5 1 46 64 11 Bath St. 'A' 5 5 1 60 50 11 5 6 0 59 51 10 ΙI Anfield 'A' II Sefton IO 3 5 2 45 55 Linnet A' 3 6 1 43 57 10 Oakhill 'A' 10 3 6 I 24 60 Bootle YM 'B' 12 1 11 0 24 96 Vie. Pk. 'C' 11 1 10 0 23 87 Oakhill Home Matches expanged from Opponent's Records.

THE tussle at the top of the table is revolving around four or five clubs, with the strong English Electric and Cricket Club teams stepping up their challenge to Liverpool YM's long run as leaders. Indeed, one of the shock results to date was the first defeat of the all conquering YMCA side by Anfield. The YM to then had lost only 6 sets in 7 matches. One of the architects of the Anfield

victory was L. Stirzaker who only recently lost his 100% record to George Sanders of the Cricket Club. The YM have now lost their No. 1, Ken Roberts who has been promoted to their 1st division side, and they conceded another point to Limares just before the holiday. They must now be glacing over their shoulders more than a little anxiously. In fact, one of the deciding factors of the ultimate championship could well be next week's clash with the Cricket Club at Algburth.

English Electric, who are having a very good season, although very strong at 1, 2 and 3, seem rather suspect lower down and in reserve strength, as was instanced by their very surprising defeat at the hands of the Police 'A'. In this game they were without Eric Smitton and went down 3-7, Fred Pheysey meeting with one of his rare defeats to I. Two weeks later they Contoy. scored a good win over Linacre. Smitton and Pheysey (who had a shoulder injury) dropping down the order to 3 and 4 respectively. Smitton had an extremely hard struggle against K. Ainsworth, No. 4 for Linnene, heleke just pipping him. Len Davies.

Division 4

PW LD F A W'tree Lab. 0089 1 18 L'pool P.O. 9 7 1 1 58 32 15 Cadwa A 2 0 67 23 14 9 7 Fairlawn 'A' 9 4 2 3 49 41 11 8 4 3 I 42 38 9 Wat. Dk. 'A' Bath St. 'B' 8 4 0 34 46 4 Cadwa 'B' 3 6 1 45 55 10 Wat. Pk. 'A' 6 0 36 54 3 8 Linnet 'B' 7 0 18 62 Oakhill 'B' 7 2 4 I II 35 Bootle YM 'C' 10 0 10 0 8 92 Oakhill Home Matches expunged from Opponent's Records.

WHILST writing this, I am surrounded by a cold, white, slippery world outside, and the idea of a warm table tennis room is very inviting. It seems surprising to think of complaining about conditions in some club rooms being too warm.

Wavertree Labour Club continue their relentless pursuit of the divisional championship with Cadwa A' and Liverpool Post Office in hot pursuit. After their opening draw with Fairlawn A, the Post Office have realised their promotion potential, and with the recall of Ron Fowler from 'retirement' (what a useful No. 4 he is!), are very strong contenders. The Post Office's defeat of Cadwa 'A' is likely to have vital bearing on final placings. These top three teams appear to have the measure of the rest of the division, whilst the bottom two teams seem to be rather outclassed. The players in these teams cannot be faulted for lack of effort, and it is to be hoped that the younger members do not become discouraged, as they display most promising form.

The most disappointing feature of the season to date has been the number of teams withdrawn from the division. This unfortunate position does tend to destroy interest, particularly among the younger players, and it is refreshing to see the keenness and will to win shown by the two Cadwa teams. I quote a personal instance as to the manner in which these withdrawals affect playing dates in that Fairlawn A' played their last home game on 4th December, and their next home **metch** date is 12th February.

A more pleasing aspect of the season is to see, from the score cards received to date, that attendance records appear to be good. Absences are noticeable when teams have been due to play Wavertree Labour—with obvious significance. Water-loo Park 'A' failed as a team to meet their Wavertree opponents.

Les Harper.

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Crawford's	II	10	0	I	97	13	21
Wav. Lab. 'A'	ΙŌ	9	0	I	88	12	19
Crawford's 'A'	11	8	3	o	70	40	16
L'pool CC 'A'	10	6	2		58		
L'pool YM 'C'	11	5	4	2	52	58	12
St. Edw. O.B.	10	5		I	55	45	11
Anfield B'			5	I	49	51	ΙI
Fairlawn 'B'					41		
Beauclair 'A'					39		
Dom. Miss.	11	2	8	1	36	74	5
Rafter's 'C'	10	I,	7	2	34	66	4
B'tl. NALGO	,1.1	Ţ	10	Ö	21	89	2

HE sorting-out process continues leaving Wavertree Labour 'A' and Crawford's 3 points ahead of the field—each having lost only the point involved in their draw early in the season. The Cricket Club 'A' team. lying third, were beaten more than comfortably 10-0 on their own table by Crawford's, and it is now a moral certainty that, should either team win in their clash on January 28th, that team will finish as champions, with the other as runners-up. second draw will (probably) mean a set's decision at the end of the season, which might add a little zest to the proceedings.

Liverpool Cricket Club, although a sound team, are obviously not strong enough to offer serious competition to either of the leaders, but appear ready to fill the No. 3 berth, Crawford's 'A' and St. Edward's following close behind. While at the tail end Rafter's 'C' are in the unaccustomed last place, having provided Domestic Mission with their first win for a long, long time. And Beauclair 'A' seem to find it harder to pick up points this year than has been the case in past seasons. Still, with the number of vacancies from Div. 2 downwards it is unlikely that anyone will be relegated, so all can have a good time with only a small proportion of worry on that score.

Individually, Arthur Jones (Crawford's) is undefeated in League matches, having lost only 2, both against Fairlawn in the Cup. And at Wavertree, Owens, Byrne and Chambers have each only lost I in the League, Byrne 1 also in Cup ties, and the others more in the Cups, and though members of their own teams run these four close, in no other side in the division is there one single player whose record is remotely comparable, so far ahead of the Indeed, it now division they are. Indeed, it now seems a good time for the vacancies in the whole League to be filled by a bit of "jumping" divisions—in the interests of the League as a whole (Management Committee please note suggestion). Incidentally, after members of the two top teams, the player with the next best record is one of our women players, Barbara Topping (Liverpool CC 'A') with 83.33%.

Fred Winstanley.

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	. P
W'tree Lab. 'B'	'IO	9	0	1	84	18	IO
Tech. Stds.	II	8			78		
Stan. House	ΙI	7			67		
Eng. Elec. 'A'	10	7			64		
L'pool CC 'B'	10	5			54		
Eng. Elec. 'B'	II	4	4	3	6i	49	11
Anfield 'C'	10	4	5	Ī	48	52	9
L.P.A.S. 'B'	10	3	4	3	47	53	ģ
University 'A'	9	4			4 Ï		8
Bath St. 'C'	11	2			33		5
Beauclair 'B'	ro	I			22		2
Linnet 'C'	9	0			II		0
						-	

AS I surmised, Wavertree Labour are proving to be far too good for us. They are a great side, their toughest game to date (with one exception) being an 8-2 win. The exception was what, at first sight appeared to be a surprise point dropped to Anfield 'C' who are in the lower half of the table. But the result is not so surprising when the Anfield side includes L. Stizaker, M. Holland and Reggie Royle (this latter winning the two key games). I very much doubt whether anyone can equal Anfield's performance.

Another excellent draw from two well-matched teams was that between Stanley House and University. with doubles from Jones and Lyn, who is having a great season. Three more good draws for English Electric B' and 5 wins from 6 sets for Billy Neary who seems to have run into form with victories over Lawson (University, 2 straight), Storey and Maher (Cricket Club, both 2 straight) and Patterson (Police, also in 2). Francis and Lawson (University) with two sets apiece, made English Electric 'A' fight hard for a 6-4 win from 4-1 down. Electric, however, romped home against Stanley House when Pierce won his side's only set.

Welcome back to Beauclair who scored a convincing win over Linnets. Both appear to be good bets for relegation, but both deserve a pat on the back for their keenness and perseverance.

Tech. Students, no doubt, fancy themselves for the No. 2 spot following their 7-3 win over Electric 'A' with two fine doubles from Crawshaw and Roberts. A few good solo wins came from Joyce Newll and Roberts

(both Bath Street) v. Electric 'B' and Wavertree Labour, and George Morgan and Reg Foster (Linnets) against Beauclair and Stanley House. Although their side lost heavily, these four pulled out all the stops to gain these single sets.

Jack Lambert.

Division 7

	\boldsymbol{P}	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool CC 'C'	ΙI	8	2	1	85	25	17
Crawford's 'B'	9	7	0	2	67	23	16
Colonsay	10	7	2	1	72	28	15
Lewis's	10	5				42	
St. Leonard's	7	5	I	1	48	22	11
L'pool CC 'D'	8	4	2	2	45	35	10
Lowlands	10	3	5	2	42	58	8
Eng. Elec. 'C'	9	3	6	o	33	57	6
Cath. Met.	7	I	6	0	25	45	2
University 'B'	6	0	4	2	14	46	2
Linuet 'D'	9	0	9	0	1	89	0
Oakhili 'C'	9	О	7	2	9	68	0

71TH the half-way stage reached, the only major change since the last issue of the "Digest" is that Lewis's have lost two vital matches and consequently have dropped several positions. They west down 4-6 to Crawford's 'B', though skipper Reg. McNaghten have felt reasonably pleased his personal performance in beating Mabel Francis 25-23 in the third and Dave Magrane 21-10, also in the third. Lewis's suffered a much heavier defeat in their second loss, at the hands of Liverpool Cricket Chab 'C', when their only win came from C. Avery at No. 5.

Crawford's 'B' dropped their secoud point of the season to Colonsay. member of Crawford's team **Mined one** set, but for their opposents the honours were far more mixed. Brian Rockliffe at No. 1 -who incidentally motored from Burnley to take part in the matchwon both his events against Barton and Magrane. Skipper Harry Nelson. at No. 4, also had an excellent double against Widdowson and Watt, after losing the first game in each instance. and the other set was secured by Alan Guy, who accounted for Crawford's Captain, Walter Eymond.

St. Leonard's are still going very strongly, and a valuable point was obtained against the Cricket Club 'C' wavey in a game which was as evenly matched as the result suggests. Eric Doriman got his usual two for the home team, and Tony Matthias earned St. Leonard's sole double of the evening.

Catholic Metro ranks have been greatly strengthened by the signing of Mike Gallagher who is a player of great experience, having turned out in Rafter's 1st division team many times, and has been a regular member of their 3rd division side for some seasons. He should do much to turn the side into a difficult hurdle to be overcome.

Both of the Cricket Club teams in this division provide strong opposition. The 'C' team has a powerful No. 1 in Brie Doriman, and the 'B' team are nearly as successful as are the 'C'. At least they can beast a draw with Crawfords 'B' to whom the 'C' team went down 4-6. The only other defeat suffered by this 'C' team was (again) 4-6 to Colonsay, in a match in which Eddte Hand scored a double, and the other sets were added by Dawn Lewis and Dorfman.

A fine individual performance was that of Cath. Churchill of Linnets 'D' when she beat the English Elec. No. I J. Byrne, to score her side's sole win.

Norman Nelson.

Division 8

	P	W	L	D	\boldsymbol{F}	A	F
Mossley Hill	10	10	0	0	86	14	20
Lussac	11	9	1	Ι	76	34	19
Way, Lab. 'C'	10	7	2	I	82	38	15
Orreli	ΙI	-6	4	1	64	46	13
Anfield 'D'	12	6	6	0	61	59	12
Maghall Co-op	9	3	2	4	47	43	10
Tech Stds A	12	4	7			61	
Lowlands 'A'	12	3	9	ø	37	83	6
Colonsay 'A'	12					83	
Lucem 'A'	11	I	ŧο	0	21	89	2

IT would appear that the criticism of footwear and shirts for match play has done some good for a marked improvement has been noticed. Some services are still a bit dicey and more practice to improve these is recommended, but I am glad to see that Umpires are warning players who are guity of foul serving, and are giving points against them if they continue

to do so. Unipiting is not everydie's cup of bes, and in the main we do pretty well but I would sak those who do volunteer to be in control of the game, and not to be distated to by players or by SPECTATORS sitting watching. Anyone can make a mistake, and if hi real distilt, call a let said play the point again.

It is not surprising that Billie Hildge (Orrell) was included in the Liverpool Ladies trials. She has accordated for most of her opponents this season, playing at No. 1 for her club, and her record amply justified her selection. We wish her every success.

Anfield made a good signing in L. Stirzaker, a very strong defensive player whose few attacking strokes are complete winners. He will not allow himself to be bustled into making mistakus, leaving all that to his opponent. Maghuil Co-Op are the most improved team to date, all players being very enthusiastic and playing hard for every point, but the side running away with the division is Mossley Hill. They are a very strong team, and judging by the number of players who have taken part this season, they have exceptionally strong reserve strength. Their No. 1 D. Maher is a player whose game I found it a joy to watch and one who should be playing in a very much higher division.

It must be disheartening for Captains to put W.O. against a player's name, and this season it has been the ease in 8 matches, with two further matches being complete walk-overs, with sides failing to arrive at all. Lucem 'A' are the worst offenders in this respect, for in four matches they have been obliged to concede sets. So I ask every player to make a New Year resolution to turn up if selected to play, or at teast to be fair to your Captain and wash him if you cannot play, in good there for a reserve to be obtained.

Lii Jenkins.

3 A Side

	P	W	E	Ď	10) A	. 2
CADWA	TT	IO	I	ø	70	21	20
L'pool YM	9	8	Ť	ð	71	İÖ	16
Wavertree Lab	8	7	r	0	61	ø	T4
Fairlawn	11	7				46	
Bootle YM	10	6				34	
Linnet	11	5				30	
Balfour	10	4				64	
Victoria Park	9	4	5	O	42	39	- 8
Eng. Electric	IO	- 3	7	Ó	22	67	6
L'pool CC	10	3	7			5 4	
W'loo Dock	12	2			37		4
	9	5	4	0	1£	39	4
Lowlands	II	Ī	10	ø	25	74	2

DICKING winners on the Treble Chance is child's play spotting winners in this division. Linnets (with the No. 4 of their 'A' team out) beat Bootle YM's regular team 5-4. Two week's later Bootie thrash the hitherto unbeaten Cadwa 6-3 (Eden failing to score) and with Cadwa having earlier beaten Liverpool YM 5-4, trying to forecast the ultimate champions is rather matter of "Yer pays yer penny" etc. However, sticking out the neck as usual, I nominate Liverpool YM to finish up top with Wavertage Labour second. Both teams have lost one match only, and I cannot see the YM dropping another. And since the opening game (lost bootle) Wavertree Labour have sailed through all opposition and I fancy them to inflict on Cadwa their second defeat of the first half.

Obviously, one of the points of interest is the comparison between ist and "non-ist" division players. Harold Willcock can hardly fall into the second category, but Been and Birch are doing well enough to show that they would do well he the top But again, the Labour Chub comes with a bang. Pete Hurworth has the best record in the division, with Chaloner, Owens, Byrne and others right on his heels. In that, apart from the six sets dropped at Bootle, NINE men have lost only iour sets in six matches. Both Edin and Birch have each lost SIX. Wall gives one furiously to think!

Apart from the few top trasses, clubs appear to use this division to give extra games to as many players

as they can. Both Liverpool C.C. and English Electric have used 14 players already, and others are not far behind. Lowlands have earned a deal of respect from opponents in that they never fail to appear, and never stop trying, and in this respect a certain K. Smith earns commendation. Only once has he failed to notch at least one victory, and he has (in the first ten weeks) won 10 of his side's 15 sets. Not an unimpressive record for a 7th division player.

Women's Division

1 1480 B	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Bohemians	11	10	0	I	90	20	21
CADWA	II	10	I	0	96	14	20
Rafters	12	10	2	0	90	30	20
Linnet	12	8	3	I	75	45	17
Grawford's	II	7	4	o	70	40	14
CADWA 'A'	II.	6	5	0	61	49	12
Bath St	I 2	6	6	0	66	54	12
L'pool C.C.	I 2	4	6	2	56	62	IO
Anfield	ΙI	3	8	0	42	68	6
Bohs, 'A'	11	3	8	0	33	77	6
Rafters 'A'	11	3	8	О	31	79	6
Bootle Nalgo	8	o	8	o	10	70	0
Tech, Stds.	11	0	11	0	0	10	. 0

AM glad to report that the trials which had been promised to the Ladies took place at the Balfour Club past before Christmas. Though the semperature both outside and in was almost freezing, the girls all managed to keep themselves warm with some good table tennis. Seven ladies turned up. Unfortunately Moya Jones was working, Judy Crafter was away at a tournament, and Joyce Randall and Jean Reynolds both had previous engagements, but nevertheless, Barbara Topping, Barbara Taylor, Billie Illidge, Pauline Lawrenson, Myra Lovelady, Muriel Willcox and Betty Black all showed tremendous keenness, and all played exceedingly well. Barbara Topping has improved considerably, and she exashed home some powerful winning forehands, especially against Pauline. Doubtless some of her improvement is due to her playing stronger opponents this year than last, when her team was in the 2nd division, and she hadn't much opportunity to meet tougher players. Myra Lovehady is also coming back into her form of a couple of seasons ago though unfortunately, with other commitments now, she has little time for serious practice.

This idea of getting together some of the lady players is a good one, and should be repeated more often. I hope to arrange another such day sometime in the New Year if a club can be found which is fairly central for most people.

Linnets had a very close match when they lost 4-6 to Rafters. Milly Harris played extremely well for Linnets, winning both her sets against Jean Reynolds and Myra Lovelady, both of whom have been playing well all season. Amy Bell also accounted for Myra, and Milly, together with Lily Wynne won their doubles.

Rafters 'A' did well to defeat Anfield 6-4. Pinky Rumiahn and Reggie Royle had a battle with Reggie just scraping home 23-21 in the 3rd. Pinky is playing more this year and has got well into her stride. She played two good games against Judy and myself when Cadwa played them in the Bartholomew though losing both events. She didn't go down without a fight. Little Doris D'Arcy plays some fantastic stuff at times and for all her size, can hit some incredible winners with her forehand. She gave Judy the fright of her life in the Merseyside Open, when she only just lost 23-21 in the final game, though in the League match, Judy got her measure and managed to win in straight games.

It is gratifying to know that both Tech. Students and Bootle Nalgo, despite their lack of success, are determined to keep battling. Both teams are enjoying their games, though unfortunately they are not able to get much practice. Nevertheless, they do their level best in their matches, and are keenly interested.

The Liverpool 1st team bowed themselves out of the Rose Bowl on the last Saturday of December, being very much outplayed by a far stronger side. Manchester never looked in any danger, except perhaps in the very first set between Moya Jones and Diane Fitzgerald, the young Lancs. county player. Moya was leading 20-10 in the first game, but Diane

pulled up to 16-20 before losing. In the second, the Manchester girl took the lead from the start and won at the same score, and in the third, Moya trailed a bit, broke even, and then Diane made some very fine backhand shots which Mova had no answer for. In this set both players attacked both forehand and backhand, neither falling back on to defence - each playing her own

attacking style.

Will the day ever come, we wonder, when Liverpool can turn the tables on Manchester? I can only hope that the day is not far off when we are able to do so.

Eileen Mansell. 41.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

(By JACK McCAIG)

EXIT THE GIRLS!

NOR once in a while our Ladies' teams reached the Zone final of the J. M. Rose Bowl competition, but perhaps this is stretching a point in view of the fact that we drew a bye in both rounds 1 and 2. However our old friends and enemies, Manchester were encountered just before the New Year at Crawford's, where defeat by 5 sets to o ended an extremely short run in the competition. Mrs. Jones, Miss Willcox and Miss Crafter represented the League in this match, as in fact they have in all matches so far this season.

The game between the 1st team and "A" team at Beauclair, early in December, when the "A" team was represented by Mrs. Randall, Mrs. Reynolds, and Mrs. Lawrenson, ended in the expected win for the 1st team by 9 sets to 1, the only "A" team success being a good win by Mrs. Reynolds over Miss Crafter.

Earlier the "A" team defeated Oldham 9-1, when Oldham arrived one player short due to the lastminute illness of one member of

their side.

THE BRIGHT SPOTS.

 Undoubtedly, where the Liverpool League has gained most kudos in the past five seasons or so has been in the junior division of the Lancs. and Cheshire League. After a mediocre season last year our juniors are at it again, and depending largely on the result of the Wirral v. Burnley match are on the threshold of further honours. Should this happen, as I sincerely hope it will, the greatest credit should go to young Gordon Birch, who, after four matches, two of these against the strong Burnley and Wirral sides,

remains undefeated. I rate him one of the best juniors we have produced for some years, and what is more, one of the most modest also. Here in my opinion is a youngster upon whom other junior players might well model themselves. Full of enthusiasm and determination, Gordon has made his mark in the junior circles of Lancashire, and has some very worthy scalps to prove it. In keeping with his performances on the table is the immaculate way in which this young player is turned out, always spick and span, and an object lesson to many much older players of the League.

While still on the subject of young players, the newly formed Youth Division could well be won in its initial season by this League. To date our team has played three matches, having dropped but one set out of thirty. Granted, the opposition so far has been rather weak, but if the team of Rov Smith. Robert Eden and Trevor Owens can overcome Blackpool in the near future, a big step will have been taken towards the championship...

THE DOLDRUMS.

Both Men's teams are having a rough passage this term, and whilst I do not think that either is in much danger of relegation, neither will there be any pots for them this time.

The 1st team were eliminated by Preston from the Willmett Cup competition, and the same Prestin team then rubbed it in by inflicting an 8-2 defeat on the 'A' team.

The 1st team were beaten by Burnley 7 sets to 3 and have a let of leeway to make up to finish in a safe position, but I hope that in the next issue of the 'Digest' it will possible to report a happier situation.

HOW ABOUT A CHANGE?

Below A. Blir

OME little time back there was quite a lot written in the "Dinest" with regard to the idea brought forward for the changing of the emisting system of scoring and recording of points in matches. For those who are not conversant with the proposal, it was that, instead of a normal win, say by six sets to four being shown as two points in the League charts, it should be shown as six points for the winners and four points for the losers. The proprinted in full if it was found to be necessary. That is, a point achieved for each set won. This system was thought up when there was a lot of trepidation and concern being shown for the apparent loss of interest in table tennis in Liverpool. Teams dropping out, lack of interest, and a decrease in the number of new and young recruits to the sport.

There is no doubt at all that it aroused a lot of interest in table tennis circles, but as everyone knows it was put to the vote at the last The motion was defeated. Since this turn of events nothing further has been said on the subject. I personally gave it much thought during the closed season, and when the present season began I asked many of my fellow club members what they thought of the idea. Ten of the twelve I asked said they would welcome the change, their main reason being that it would stimulate interest and enthusiasm in a match to the last point played. I would sav that the twelve people to whom I spoke represent a fair cross section of the playing members of the Leagne. It is a well known fact that

when a team is losing by 7 or 8 sets to mil, the interest in the match as a competitive sport in nine cases out of ten, onases to exist. Especially in the case of a team which is losing regularly.

With the new system, every member of the team would have an object in view—that of earning at least one point for his team even though it lost o-r.

I feel that it would be a good idea to have a vote on the issue, but that the vote should be a secret one. ballot paper could be printed in the Digest. In that way every In that way every registered member would receive a vote, which could then be sent to a named collector of votes. Preferably a non-physing member. would be most interesting to see the outcome of a general vote. It will be appreciated that many club Secretaries vote at A.G.M's. in the manner they think fit, and not as the representative of perhaps 30 members of their club. That may have been the regson for the original defeat of the motion. Consequently, I believe that the majority decision should prevail, and in doing sa, give the players a more competitive and happier six months playing period during the year. I imagine that the older element in the administrative ranks of the game, especially at glub level, do not want, or are reluctiont to deviate from the set and conventional ways of the League. It would therefore be quite an achievement if this method were tried only for one season. It would show the powers-that-be have the incentive and courage to move with the times.

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ARTICLES WANTED! - A REPLY

Don Cameron.

AVING perforce to spend a few days at home nursing a chill, I thought I would endeavour to answer Menty's plea from the heart and write an article for the "Digest." I thought I could, but after much pendil biting, and repeated emptying of the waste-paper basket, this was the result:—

SPONGE AND THE SPECTATOR.

I think that sponge has ruined the

game!

These few words should be enough to trigger off a never-ending argument between the "spongers" and the "plain rubbers." At least they invariably have this effect in the clubroom, but will they do so through the pages of the "Digest"? I hope

However, let us explore another line of argument not often talked over, but which stems from the same statement. The existence of an organised sport depends upon the support afforded by spectators. That is to say, that the game cannot be expanded, either by the coaching of players or by sending players to tournaments (world-wide) without financial backing. At the moment, this backing comes from within the game itself, the volume of support coming from spectators being (at

present) negligible.

If the game were made more attractive to the public it would attract more spectators, consequently more money for its expansion. But, even more important, it would attract more youngsters who, once having seen how exciting the game can be, would want to start playing. At least this was my own experience. In the days when the "circus" came to town (Barna, Beliak and Szabados) such was their prowess with bat and ball that I watched spellbound, as did thomands of others who paid to fill the biggest halls in the city to see stroke play at its best. I just couldn't get back to our own table quick enough to try to emulate the play of the masters. Of course, this was all done with plain rubber but . . . no spenge, with its artificial spins and speeds—its deadening of returns, loop shots and just putting the bat in the way. I recall a certain final of the Liverpool

Closed played with sponge, over which I prefer to draw a curtain, even though good money was paid to see it.

Where can we see the like of those old players today? Players whose names are still household words? I don't suppose that one in a hundred can tell me who is the reigning

world champion.

Perhaps it is that we are no longer interested in attracting the spectator. Perhaps we are not concerned with letting the public really know what a skilful and exciting game it can be. Perhaps we have no real interest in attracting the youngster who has never heard of the game. Possibly the modern player is concerned only with how best he can win his own game—then how best to win the next.

The fact that this is not much of a spectacle to watch is beside the point, the only aim being to win.

Is this the reason why our own registered members seem to have little inclination to go to watch someone else play, be they the best in the League or the best in the country. Gone are the days when the finals of the Liverpool Closed could fill the YMCA upper hall.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir.

With regards to 3-a-Side League fixture, Lowlands away to Liverpool C.C., Friday, 21st December. We arrived at the Cricket Club at 7-30 p.m. The clubhouse was in darkness. We waited until 8-25 p.m., 55 minutes and then gave it up as a bad job.

I had thought of 'phoning their Secretary, but on consulting the handbook found only "business"

numbers.

Yours disheartened,

G. T. DIXON, Hon. Sec. Lowlands T.T.C.