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**TABLE
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LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE DIGEST TENNIS

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

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No. 3

EDITORIAL

WE were encouraged to receive this month a letter (which we publish on Page 14) from E. Birch of Wavertree Labour T.T.C. We say "encouraged" advisedly because it is but seldom that one finds a youngster prepared to stand up for his contemporaries and point, if not an accusing finger, certainly an admonitory one at his seniors.

Young Birch's letter is commended to those Club Committees willing and anxious to bring some much needed new blood into the League and we should welcome publishing in next month's issue news and views of those clubs prepared to take up the challenge.

In this connection our mind goes back to the League's A.G.M. before last, wherein reference was made by Mr. John McKim, the Hon. Secretary, to a scheme of co-operation and collaboration with the Liverpool Boys' Association and we are just wondering what, if anything, has become of it. Perhaps John would like to elaborate in his column next month.

Talking of youngsters leads, naturally, to a consideration of the future of the game in Liverpool which, as we mentioned in this column last year, does not seem to have been quite the same since the formation of the Wirral League.

We then proposed that it might be beneficial if consideration could be given to the formation of a Premier Division, embodying the leading teams in the Liverpool and Wirral Leagues. This point seems to have aroused interest in certain quarters and, indeed, has been taken a step further in that it has been suggested that the time may now be ripe for the amalgamation of the Liverpool, Wirral and Business Houses Leagues into a Merseyside Table Tennis Federation. Whether or not this would be a practical proposition remains to be seen, bearing in mind that quite a number of players are registered with more than one of the three Leagues concerned, but it might well prove that if Liverpool Table Tennis is to advance to its pre-war glory some such radical step will have to be taken. Anyway, it is a suggestion—what do you think about it?

Don Cameron's article last month on the introduction of sponge rubber bats seems to have achieved its object in that a fair amount of interest appears to have been aroused, as will be seen from the succeeding pages.

At the moment the "fors" are in the ascendancy, but we are inclined to believe that the last has not been heard on this subject—indeed, having listened to Monty's somewhat radical views on the game over the past 15 years we have a snaking feeling that he might at any time now come forward in support of the "pimples", to our amusement and instruction.

PERSONALITIES OF THE MONTH

Bill and Judy Crafter

"Following in father's footsteps", and very adequately too is young BILL CRAFTER of Cadwa.

As befits a member of the Crafter family, he commenced his Table Tennis career at the age of 12 when he spent some 18 months under the eagle eye of coach Ted Runjahn. His baptism into League warfare came when he was 14 years of age, when he made his debut for Oakhill —there being at that time a rule, since rescinded, prohibiting persons under the age of 16 years being a member of Cadwa.

Young Bill looks back with pleasure on those two years at Oakhill and recalls, with gratitude, the help and encouragement given to him by those two stalwarts Frank and Edna Moore.

At 16 he left Oakhill to join Cadwa where, despite a somewhat shaky beginning, he has graduated through the lower orders until he now holds his place, on merit, in Cadwa's First Team.

His enthusiasm for the game is unbounded, as is evidenced by his journeys to various inter-city matches and his surrendering of his holidays last year to accompany sister Judy to Bognor Regis for that resort's Table Tennis Festival Week. It was here that he met many of the game's personalities which he says has made the game much more personal to him.

Although perhaps overshadowed by the distaff side of his family, young Bill, at 22 years of age, has the ability, enthusiasm and dedication to reach the top.

When JUDY CRAFTER became Liverpool Ladies Champion last year she became the third member of her family to hold that title, following in the footsteps of her mother and aunt, who were both Ladies Singles Champions before the war under their maiden names, respectively, of Ivy and Anne Pollitt.

Here again, is a young player bounding with enthusiasm and the determination to get to the top, giving up a week of her holidays to go down to the English Open Championships at Brighton.

Only 17 years of age, she has but to keep her head to be sure of high honours in the next five years.

Brother and sister are sensible enough not to devote every waking second to Table Tennis and obtain relaxation in off-duty moments on the lawn tennis court and through the medium of gramophone records, where their choice of music perhaps reflects the difference in their personalities, in that Judy "digs" pop music, whilst Bill goes for the classical stuff with more than a leaning towards Gilbert and Sullivan.

To both these youngsters the "Digest" sends its best wishes for their future success in the game.

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SHOCKS FOR THE YOUNGSTERS

SINCE my last report on our teams' efforts in the two counties League, both the Youth team and the Junior team have suffered reverses, indeed they have both had a very rude awakening.

It was a fair bet, not very long ago, that the Youth team would win the division in its inaugural season, but alas! this honour goes (most worthily) to the Preston Youth team. Having dropped a point against Blackpool a few weeks back, we travelled to Preston on February 8th, knowing that in this, the last match of the season, it must be an outright win to take the title. It was unfortunate that, due to the late arrival of two of the Preston side, it was necessary for our three players, Messrs. Smith, Owens, and Eden, to take on the Preston number one in successive sets. The Preston boy, Hodson by name, was, apart from the advantage of being a thoroughly warmed-up player after the first set against Owens, rather too good all round for our players. Even Roy Smith who did manage to take one game.

The late arrival of the other two Preston players automatically prevented strict order of play, which operates in the Lancashire and Cheshire League, and rather spoilt the match. Apart from this, though, Preston were far and away the better team, and emerged winners by 10 sets to nil. There was no dispute about the result as our players were ready to admit, and they now know that the smaller leagues are quite capable of holding their own with the larger leagues.

100% Record Goes!

Turning now to the Junior team, it was mainly due to Gordon Birch losing his unbeaten record that was mainly responsible for a 4-6 defeat by Stockport recently. He was deservedly beaten by a boy named Hampson, an excellent all-round player, who never for a moment allowed Gordon to assert his authority. Most of Birch's best attacking shots were promptly walloped back with interest, much to Gordon's consternation. The other factor in this defeat was the

poor form of Myers, who was well below his best.

On the same day as the Stockport game, the team travelled on to Oldham for their match there, so killing two birds with one stone so to speak. Here it was a different story, and a sound 7-3 win was chalked up. There remains only one match now, that against Bolton on Saturday afternoon, 9th March, at Linnets, when a win will mean that the possibility of our boys winning the Junior division will then depend on the outcome of one or two other games in which the Wirral and Burnley leagues are involved.

A LULL.

Our senior teams have not seen very much activity in the past few weeks. Due to postponements, the Men's 1st team has not played since the end of November. This will be remedied when they visit Blackpool of 22nd February, and they finish their season by playing Manchester, Liverpool Business Houses (Friday, 8th March, at Orrell) and Bolton, all in the space of five days. David Butterworth has (deservedly) been chosen to play in all these four matches and he has a great chance to make his place secure in this team for a long time to come. Arthur Taylor and Norman Jones complete the team. The Men's "A" team have only Southport and Barrow to play, both of which will need to be won in order to stay out of the relegation zone in Division 2 West. The team for both matches will be Allanson, Ferguson, and Smith.

It is good to see the Ladies' team doing well, and if they can defeat Blackpool at Beauclair on Friday, 22nd, they will finish up runners-up to Manchester, which is pretty good doing these days. Their record to date is: played 4, won 3, lost 1.

The Ladies' "A" team has had quite a struggle, so far managing only one win from four matches. The best performance in this team has been that of Jean Reynolds, who gets there in her own quiet way, and to date has a 50% average. Barbara Topping has at last been given her chance in representative play, and I am sure that everyone will wish her a lot of success.

Letter to the Editor.

THE MERSEYSIDE OPEN

Present System discourages Local Entries

—say Crawford's Ladies T.T.C.

Dear Sir,

Having supported the Merseyside Open for a number of years we feel we have earned the right to criticise the way in which it is managed. We fully appreciate the amount of time and effort which the Committee generally expends and our criticism is intended as an aid to future planning.

Not many Liverpool Ladies enter the tournament, and since the entire Friday evening was devoted to whittling down those few who DID enter, we should not have been surprised to find ourselves in the ludicrous position of playing our own team mates in the first round of the Doubles. Two of us were also opposed in the first round of the Singles. "Rather unfortunate" said one bystander; "Luck of the draw" said another. We think it was ridiculous, particularly as we may play each other any evening we wish at our own club, in near perfect conditions, and without having to pay 2/- or 3/- entrance fee.

Surely it would be comparatively easy to decree that all members resident within a given radius of the Liverpool Town Hall—and make it a fairly substantial radius—shall compete on the first evening, or evenings, so as to minimise the possibility of this sort of thing happening again.

It would also give the local players, particularly the men, a greater chance of pitting their skill against a wider field and, incidentally, of progressing further in the tournament. As things stand, many of Liverpool's better players are eliminated in the earlier rounds, having battled it out in what could, with reason, be termed as a "Minor Liverpool Closed".

All players entering the Merseyside Open should have an equal chance. At the moment it is a positive disadvantage to have been born a "Scouse".

In for a penny—in for a pound! The refreshments available did not compete favourably with those provided at the Liverpool Closed by the League's Catering Committee. Need we say more?

Yours faithfully,

For

CRAWFORD'S LADIES T.T. TEAM,

J. Barton (Mrs.)

Editor's Note.

We have every sympathy with the writer and suggest that Mrs. Barton undertakes to make this point again, equally forcibly, at the Annual General Meeting in May, when she may be surprised at the support she receives.

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THE BOARD OF APPEAL

When I wrote in the last issue of the "Digest" about the Oakhill incident, I had anticipated that this matter was closed. Such was not the case, however, for the Oakhill club lodged yet another appeal, this time against the severity of the sentence.

Although the Committee felt that under the present rules the Board of Appeal had no authority to alter a penalty once imposed, nevertheless the matter was placed before the Board because of the particular circumstances attaching to the case.

The Board of Appeal agreed that they had no authority to express an opinion regarding the severity of a sentence, stating that they were there, under the existing rules, purely to arbitrate over alleged misinterpretation of rules.

The Oakhill representatives present expressed surprise that such a rule should exist which debarred the Board of Appeal from reducing, or altering in any way, any penalty imposed by the Committee, but this rule has been in existence in this form for more than 15 years and, having made a careful check of the Annual General Meeting minutes I can assure you that not once during this time has any club even suggested that it be altered. Surely it would be most imprudent for the Committee to suggest alterations to a Board of Appeal rule which is there for the sole purpose of protecting clubs against a decision of the Committee.

Short Memories.

Whilst on the subject of rules, one hears many complaints in the course of conversation, whilst the Editor, in the last issue, remarked upon the critical letters received each month. Why is it that all these dissatisfied members suddenly forget all their complaints around April and May

in each year? Over the last five years, the average number of nomination papers returned has been 7—and the average number of clubs submitting rule amendments over the same period has been 4. When you consider that the average strength of the League during these five years has been 45 clubs and that in no season has this number dropped below 42, it is extremely difficult for the Committee to know just where they stand. For 6 months they hear moan after moan, with barely a word of praise or appreciation from the start of the season to its finish, and then, in May of each year, approximately 83% of the clubs in membership, by not returning a nomination paper, indicate their complete confidence in the Committee as constituted, and over 90% of the clubs clearly demonstrate their view that no changes in the rules are necessary.

Will you please make your minds up. Moans around the club rooms and letters to the "Digest" are not positive actions. If you do not like the members of the Committee or the rules by which they are governed, make your protest at the right time and in the right way, and then we shall all know just where we stand.

The Merseyside Closed.

With this issue you will have received your entry form for the Liverpool "Closed". Please hasten to complete it and POST IT EARLY. Last year, for the first time in many years, we sustained a financial loss on the "Closed", so we hope for a bigger entry this year. The financial outcome of the tournament might well be the deciding factor between our being able to carry on at our present rate of subscriptions, or our Treasurer having to ask the A.G.M. to approve an increase for next season—an increase which we would all like to avoid.

Around the Divisions

(By our Special Correspondents)

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool YM	15	15	0	0	130	20	00
Bohs.	17	14	2	1	124	46	20
Rafters	16	14	1	1	125	35	29
Bootle YM	16	11	4	1	105	55	13
Lpl. YM A	16	8	6	2	88	72	18
Anfield	16	8	6	2	81	79	18
Balfour	15	6	5	4	81	69	16
Rafters A	17	5	9	3	70	100	13
Wat. Dock	16	3	9	4	55	105	10
Bohs. A	18	3	13	2	49	131	8
Oakhill	13	9	2	2	39	38	8
Bootle YM A	18	1	13	4	51	129	6
Linnets	15	0	11	4	41	109	4
Victoria Pk	16	1	13	2	47	113	4

By their away win at Rafters, Liverpool YM took what may prove the deciding step towards the championship, for Rafters were three points down while the YM remained with maximum points. Only Dave Ferguson put up any real resistance, beating both Roy Smith and Roy Jones, both in the 3rd, Taylor adding one with a win over unhappy Roy Smith, but lost 19-21, 7-21 to Butterworth, and the YM ran out to win 7-3. Which now means that the YM must lose to some other side to put Rafters back with a chance, and that, though possible, is highly improbable. Bohemians are still in with a chance of being runners-up, and the YM's "A" team are prepared to make all come right all the way. Ken Roberts has now worked his way up to no. 1 in the "A" team, and has added some scalps to his collection. To date he has accounted for Alan Lawson, Norman Jones (twice), Mal Wallace, Turtle and Les Davies, and Eric Davies, which is not a bad bag for a newcomer to this division.

The other end of the table is still wide open, and who will pull clear is not easily foreseen, but the battles are just as bitter as at the top. The unhappy Oakhill incident showed them at the foot last month, but they have pulled well clear now, and were never in any real danger. The absence of Norman Jones and Mal Wallace gave Bootle YM "A"

a chance which they jumped at, coming away from the Balfour "Keep freeze" with a 7-3 win, which made them feel a great deal happier. Linnets let an understrength Victoria Park off the hook and had to be satisfied with a draw, though they will feel happier when Mike Cooper is once again available.

Rafters "A" seem to have been offended by my comment in the first "Digest" that their team order was altering week by week, but the fact remains that the order WAS altered, against two of the weaker teams, and that the switch paid off. Unfortunately, the two explanations I have heard have been very different, though convincing.

The personal averages show few surprises. Ted Mandaluff heads the list with Taylor a close second, with David Ferguson the only other player with over 90%. Then come Cain, Allanson and D'Arcy within one-tenth of 1% of each other, and the only real surprise, Ken Roberts with 87.5%.

Anfield are going great guns and hope to pip the YM "A" team for fourth place. The comeback of Freddie Cuff has helped, but the backbone of the team remains as it has been for some time, Alan Lawson and Ted Barnes, with Bintley and Riding at 3 and 4, and their results this year show a great improvement on the last few seasons. Which goes to show that a settled team DOES get results.

Jim Green.

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Cadwa	16	16	0	0	138	22	32
Lucem	16	12	2	2	114	46	26
Fairlawn	15	11	2	2	99	51	24
Bath St.	15	7	4	4	75	75	18
University	16	7	7	2	75	85	16
RAFA	15	7	6	2	79	71	16
Beauclair	15	6	6	3	76	74	15
LPAS	16	5	9	2	69	91	12
Wat. Park	15	5	10	0	62	58	10
Rafters B	15	3	11	1	51	99	7
Vic. Pk. A	13	3	10	0	41	89	6
Vic. Pk. B	15	0	15	0	31	119	0

Around the Divisions

READING through my notes in the previous two "Digests" I find that two teams have been denied any mention, viz., Bath St. and RAFA, so they must be spotlighted in this edition.

I did, in fact, suggest in the first issue that Bath St. would eventually find themselves near the top of this division, and although they have not entirely proved me correct in this, their team was good enough to hold Fairlawn (lying 3rd in the table) to a draw, and then, in their next match, beat a competent University side 6-4. In this match R. Evans won both his events, while Whorton, Hunt, Gould and Cooke got one each. D. Reed for University won his two sets in his customary manner.

One interesting feature of the Bath St. team is the way they change their order from match to match. This is done, of course, to gain a tactical advantage, and while I don't wish to discourage this, I was wondering just how many points were lost or won during the course of a season by this arrangement. I prefer, myself, to remain in the same position in the team throughout a season, winning or losing, and I feel it would unsettle me somewhat to change so often. Just my personal point of view, of course, and obviously Alec Gould's team think otherwise.

RAFA recently gained two 7-3 wins over Rafters "B" and LPAS, but the next fortnight brought them two heavy defeats at the hands (or bats!) of Luceam and Cadwa. Against Luceam, Jim Robinson won their single victory by trouncing Mrs. Rimmer but that was their only success, though S. Butchart did take K. Jackson to three games, and Stan Wooding did the same against A. Heyes, but all the other sets went to Luceam two straight.

Against Cadwa the team appear to have put up a stronger fight, yet they still lost 10-0. Seven events, however, in this match, were decided in the third game, and there were five deuce games during the evening. It must have been very disheartening to the RAFA team to have fought so well and yet have

nothing to show for their efforts, but Cadwa must be given credit for ensuring that the deciding game went in their favour.

Brian Leeson.

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Epl. YM B	15	12	2	1	110	40	25
L'pool C.C.	13	11	1	1	97	33	23
Linacre	15	10	3	2	102	48	22
Eng. Elec.	16	9	3	4	95	65	22
Bohs. B	16	6	8	2	74	86	14
Bath St. A	15	7	6	2	83	67	16
Anfield A	14	8	6	0	80	60	16
LPAS A	15	7	6	2	70	80	16
Linnet A	14	5	6	3	69	71	13
Sefton	15	3	8	4	66	84	10
Oakhill A	12	4	7	1	35	69	7
Vic. Pk. C	16	1	15	0	29	131	2
Bootle YM B	16	1	15	0	28	132	2

NOTES NOT RECEIVED
IN TIME FOR
PUBLICATION

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wav. Lab.	11	11	0	0	109	1	22
Cadwa A	14	12	2	0	117	23	24
L'pool P.O.	14	10	2	2	86	54	22
Fairlawn A	12	5	3	4	65	55	14
Bath St. B	13	5	7	1	53	77	11
Wat. Dk. A	10	4	4	2	48	52	10
Cadwa B	13	4	7	2	56	74	10
Wat. Pk. A	11	3	7	1	41	69	7
Linnet B	11	2	9	0	26	84	4
Oakhill B	8	2	5	1	11	45	2
Bootle YM C	13	0	13	0	0	15	0

THE severe cold spell has tested the enthusiasm of table tennis players and in the fourth division attendances have been fairly good considering conditions. Despite traffic hold-ups and bad road surfaces matches have, in the main, got away to a fairly prompt start and the usual interesting exchanges have been noted, though it is surprising how little the score card reveals of an interesting and exciting match. Liverpool Post Office defeated Waterloo Dock "A" 9-1, but five sets went to three before the win was gained. The Post Office had to concede sets due to having only four players against Bath St. "B" and this cost

Around the Divisions—Continued

them a point, D. Berry winning well over Ron Fowler and Terry McCoy.

Wavertree Labour continue to dominate the division, and such is their superiority that they defeated both Cadwa "A" and Post Office 10-0 (all decided in two straight games). Wavertree look like setting up new records. Four of their players figure in the top 8 averages in the division, two with over 90%, the others over 80%. R. McPherson (Cadwa) shows up well, lying third with 90% exactly, and junior J. Jones, also Cadwa, has an 85% record.

The position of runners-up is still a matter for conjecture, and the Post Office—Cadwa "A" match assumes great importance. Cadwa "A" have been helped on their way by two 10-0 walk-overs from Waterloo Park "A" and Oakhill "B".

In the middle of the table some close games have resulted. Cadwa "B" again drew with Fairlawn "A" and Fairlawn completed their double over Bath St. "B" in a very sporting match. Charlie Dunn earned two good wins over G. Reid and E. Scroggie in the draw between Waterloo Park "A" and Waterloo Dock "A".

Linnets "B" junior pair, Gilson Adams and Sydney White each won his two sets to give their team a 6-3 win over Bootle YM "C" for whom E. Gale has been putting in some useful performances. The youngsters in these two sides continue to show great keenness and are gaining valuable experience. Possibly too, they have profited (as many others) from the football freeze-up in the extra showing of table tennis on the "Telly".

Let us hope that in the remaining matches this season that all sides are up to strength and provide sporting opposition. In view of the number of withdrawn teams we have too many blank weeks as it is, and apart from a hollow win, a match conceded to any side means that five people are deprived of a pleasant evening's table tennis.

Les Harper.

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wav. Lab.A	14	13	0	1	126	14	27
Crawfords	15	13	1	1	119	31	27
Crawfords A	14	10	3	1	93		27 21
Lpl. CC A	14	8	2	4	86		54 20
St. Eds. OB	14	8	4	2	84		56 18
Lpl. YM C	15	6	5	4	75		75 16
Anfield B	15	7	7	1	68		82 15
Fairlawn B	15	5	10	0	54		96 10
Beauchair A	15	3	11	1	48		102 7
Dom. Miss.	14	2	11	1	45		95 5
Rafters C	14	1	11	2	40		100 4
Btl. Nalgo	13	1	12	0	22		108 2

IN the second match of the season Crawfords and Wavertree Lab. "A" fought out a draw at Olive Lane, and since both were walking away with matches against other opposition, it seemed reasonable to suppose that the return game would be another close, hard fought battle. Things proved otherwise, however, for Crawfords, at full strength, were overwhelmed 10-0 by a Labour team containing two reserves, six sets in straight games by a large margin of points in many of the games, and it is certain that this time Wavertree Labour mean there to be no doubt as to who is going to finish up at the top. Since there does not seem to be any side in the division capable of beating either of these two, unless something like a miracle happens, the top two sides will be Wavertree Labour and Crawfords, in that order.

For third place, the scrap between Crawfords "A" and Liverpool C.C. "A" seems to be going in Crawfords direction, for with recent wins over Rafters "C", Anfield "B" and Bootle Nalgo (w/o), they picked up two points more than their rivals, who had two successive draws v. Domestic Mission and Liverpool YM "C", and a win over Bootle Nalgo. Then the rivals played a draw, leaving Crawfords "A" now 4 points ahead.

Domestic must have played at their best to achieve this draw, for the Cricket Club did not put out a weak side, but one set claimed from George Grime might prove to be the one which robs the Cricketers of third place—going to show that to turn up to time is commonsense to say the least.

Around the Divisions—continued

Rafters "C" picked up three valuable points with a win over Bootle Nalgo and a draw v. YM "C" team, which lifts them up the table a shade and will give them some encouragement, especially since I hear that they put out a promising junior named Montgomery for the first time this season recently. We might yet see a Rafters revival.

St. Edward's have again got the services of Eric Handley, after a lengthy absence, and his assistance may find them climbing the table, for one extra player can often make that difference between narrow defeat and victory. And despite the stout efforts of Jack McKim and Elsie Palmer, Beauclair "A" cannot reach last year's level, mainly due to the loss of one or two of last season's players, notably Ken Roberts now performing well for Liverpool YM in the 1st division. In passing, it is good to see that Rene Sturgeon has again taken up her bat.

Despite the severe weather there has been no increase in the number of sets lost in the division from the normal level, though, as throughout the League generally, opponents feel that there are too many such offences. Still, it is encouraging to realise that our players are prepared to brave the worst of the elements to play.

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wav. Lab. B	15	14	0	1	125	25	29
Tech. Stds.	15	12	2	1	107	43	25
Eng. Elec. A	16	12	4	0	102	58	24
Stan. Hse.	15	7	5	3	81	69	17
Anfield C	14	7	6	1	76	64	15
Lpl. CC B	12	5	4	3	61	59	13
LPAS B	14	5	6	3	67	73	13
Eng. Elec B	13	4	6	3	68	62	11
University A	13	5	6	2	60	70	10
Bath St. C	13	3	9	1	42	88	7
Beauclair B	15	2	13	0	36	114	4
Linnets C	12	0	12	0	12	108	0

FIRST of all my apologies to Messrs. Catterson, Lawson, Maher and Storey. While I endeavoured to give them credit for double wins, somewhere along the line they were changed to debits.

Congratulations to Wavertree Lab. "B" and English Electric "A" on reaching the semi-finals of the Hyde Cup. It is lucky that they avoid each other at that stage, so we may yet have the winners (Wavertree) and the runners-up!

After last month's remarks, Wavertree immediately lowered their win margin to 7-3 over Electric "B" and University, for whom Casson excelled with two wins. Ron McEvoy is top of the pops at the moment with a 100% record, and E. Gilmour is not far behind. Lyn, of Stanley House, having lost one set, is lying second to McEvoy with 96.42%, then Gilmour and then comes a drop to the 85% mark, so these three are well away in front. Grieve (Beauclair) with 50% has done very well in view of his team's position.

Bath Street got two excellent wins, both 6-4 over Linnets and University, the latter thanks mainly to Barbara Taylor and Marsh. Barbara's victories over Lawson and Casson were outstanding.

Anfield and Police continue to spike the guns of the aspirants for the number two berth, Anfield beating Stanley House 7-3 (two each for Southall and Walmsley), and doubles from Isla Russell and Catterson helped Police to take home a well-earned point from Tech. Students, for whom Platt and Crawshaw saved the day with a double apiece. Platt has the impressive record of having dropped only one set since joining the team at No. 1.

Congratulations to Marie Lupton of Police who won the singles championship of the N.W. Police area, and the best of luck to her and her partner when they compete at the National Police championships at Blackpool.

Jack Lambert.

Division 7

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Colonsay	13	10	2	1	100	30	21
Crawfords B	11	9	0	2	83	27	20
Lpool CC C	11	8	2	1	85	25	17
St. Leonards	11	7	3	1	68	42	15
Lewis's	13	6	5	2	69	61	14
Cath. Met.	13	7	6	0	69	61	14
Lowlands	14	5	7	2	66	74	12
Lpl. CC D	8	4	2	2	45	35	10
Eng. Elec. C	14	4	10	0	53	87	8
University B	9	0	7	2	17	73	2
Oakhill C	11	0	8	3	13	84	0
Linnets D	11	0	11	0	1	109	0

Crawfords "B" continue to lead the field, having dropped only two points, and not yet having lost in either League or Cup. They must now be considered as likely champions, but they have a number of difficult encounters still to come. They made their task easier by beating their nearest rivals, Liverpool Cricket Club "C" 6-4 (away). Eric Dorfman of the Cricket side is the only member of the division with over 90% record, while Crawfords players have three of the top nine, as have Colonsay, who have dropped the next lowest number of points to Crawfords (5), and feel that their chances of promotion have increased with the signing of John Hodges in December. John has not yet been beaten in League or Cup, playing mostly at No. 1, and his play is a delight to watch. One of his best wins was by 17-21, 21-15, 21-14 over the Cricket Club No. 1—the formidable Eric Dorfman.

Catholic Metro are making an astronomical rise in the table by virtue of a double over English Electric "C" and wins over St. Leonard's and Lowlands, three of the wins by the narrow margin of 6-4, which goes to show what a difference one player can make if he is the right man for the job, as obviously Mike Gallagher is, as is proved by doubles in three of these four games. St. Leonard's reaped a rich revenge for their defeat by Lewis's in the first match of the season. Lowlands should soon be showing some benefit from their experience gained in the 3-a-side division. As yet there is little evidence of this, but it will

doubtless come in time, and one must admire their enthusiasm and keenness.

I am surprised to find English Electric "C" doing no better, I have seen poorer sides achieving better results in previous years which says something for the overall strength of the division. Lewis's, after the hot pace they were setting in the early stages of the season continue to slide down the table, and Liverpool C.C.'s. "D" team managed an excellent draw at Lewis's, D. Cohen (No. 1) and K. Wood (No. 5) gaining the main credit by earning a double apiece.

A new name in the Oakhill "C" team, R. Jones, collected two distinguished scalps in Barton and Widdowson (Crawfords), but his side were two players short, which ruled them out more or less from the start, and these were the only two sets gained.

Norman Nelson.

Division 8

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Mossley Hill	14	13	1	0	114	26	26
Wav. Lab. C	17	12	3	1	105	65	25
Orrell	16	10	4	2	100	60	22
Lussac	16	8	2	1	106	54	17
Anfield D	17	8	8	1	90	80	17
Colonsay A	17	8	15	0	46	124	16
Maghull Co.	16	5	7	4	74	86	14
Tech. Stds. A	17	6	10	1	82	88	13
Lucem A	17	4	13	0	50	120	8
Lowlands A	17	3	13	1	53	117	7

THE weather is no respecter of persons nor sport, and Table Tennis seems to have had its share of casualties, since I see from the score cards that at least two matches have been claimed, one by Anfield from Maghull Co-op. and Orrell from Wavertree Labour, in both of which cases the away team failed to turn up at all or a couple turning up so late that the home team had already claimed the match. The vexed question of whether inclement weather conditions constitute sufficient reason for the postponement of a match may duly rear its ugly head, and no doubt a ruling will be obtained from the Management Committee should appeals be made.

Around the Divisions—continued

Mossley Hill still top the division, and their No. 1, D. Mahen, is the sole member of the division with a 100% record to date. They conceded their first points of the season, away to Wavertree Labour losing 6-4. Wavertree completed a fine double by taking 2 points from the second team in line, Lussac, by winning 9-1 at Wavertree. Lussac have also dropped a further point to Maghull Co-op by virtue of a draw. Wavertree Labour and Orrell are battling it out for third position, both hoping to pip the other by the season's end. At the bottom, Lucem have scored two successes over Lowlands in the space of two weeks, winning by 8-2 and 6-4, a feat which may be the start of a climb away from the foot of the table. It is good to note that Lucem's cards have all matches completed. I cannot leave these results without mention of J. Thorley (Anfield) who lies 2nd to Mahen in the division averages with 87.5% and F. Brown of Maghull who is 5th with 83.33%. Both No. 1 in their respective sides, which indicates that there is considerable strength outside the top few teams.

One can readily appreciate the difficulties of a team playing in a club where table tennis is only one section, and we would all like ideal conditions, but we have to make the best of what we find. At Lowlands I thoroughly enjoyed our match which ended in a draw, but my sympathies went out to their captain who apologised three or four times during the evening for the constant interruptions. Even posting a guard on the door to exclude intruders was to no avail, for they simply pushed their way in. May be a notice on the outside of the door or a bolt on the inside would do the trick, and at the same time a bit of attention to the lighting would improve matters. Another improvement easily accomplished would be to screen the double glass doors at Maghull Co-op at one end of the table, for you find yourself playing against your own reflection as well as your opponent (most disconcerting). It has been said that we are not 1st Division players (at least not yet), but we are all playing

competitive table tennis and should strive for the best conditions possible.

Lil Jenkins.

3 A Side

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Cadwa	14	13	1	0	100	26	26
L'pool YM	13	12	1	0	104	13	24
Wav. Lab.	12	8	4	0	76	32	16
Fairlawn	12	7	5	0	48	60	14
Bootle YM	12	6	6	0	60	48	12
Linnet	12	5	7	0	40	68	10
Victoria Pk.	10	5	5	0	50	40	10
Balfour	12	4	8	0	30	78	8
L'pool C.C.	11	3	8	0	25	65	6
Wat. Dock	14	2	12	0	34	92	4
Lowlands	14	2	12	0	36	90	4
Oakhill	9	5	4	0	12	39	4
Eng. Elec. (Resigned)							

—Record expunged.

MONTH by month it becomes harder to find items worthy of comment in the division, mainly because so few clubs field their strongest sides, but it has been noticeable that the top three sides do, as a rule, turn out at strength, which probably accounts for their positions. Cadwa beat Wavertree Labour 6-3 demonstrating how dangerous it is to forecast results, but while they were at full strength, the Labour team were without both Hurworth and Farquaharson, and the return may be very different. Wavertree completed their double over Bootle YM winning 5-4, despite Allenson's triple win, and again the Labour side were depleted.

Fred Pheysey (English Electric) had a good win over Pete Hurworth losing narrowly in the 3rd to both Chaloner and Clayton, but that was the only sets his side gained.

The Liverpool YM trio of Roy Jones, and Ted Mandaluff (in that order) lead the averages for the division, followed by Willcock (Cadwa), Allanson (Bootle YM) and the Wavertree Labour three, Hurworth, Owens and Chaloner. But high in the list are the two young Cadwa players Robert Eden and Gordon Birch, and although each had lost seven sets at the time of writing, there were none lost to any but the better players opposing, and they

Around the Divisions (continued)

have every cause to feel that they have done exceedingly well.

Although pipped by Cadwa in their first meeting, somehow I cannot see Liverpool YM losing the second battle, and they must be first choice for champions, and I still fancy Wavertree Labour to come in second (if they turn out their strongest side against Cadwa in the second match). However, events might prove me wrong.

Fairlawn have quietly but firmly been winning points, and definitely deserve their high placing, and they also can feel that they have done themselves proud.

Liverpool Cricket Club have had little luck in this division though currently leading the 3rd, and when they played Wavertree only Freddie Bamford notched one set, despite having out their strongest trio. On the other hand, Wavertree relied on one 1st and two 2nd team players. Strangely, it was the first-teamer, Fraser Farquaharson who lost the only set.

Jim Green.

Women's Division

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Cadwa	14	13	1	0	118	22	26
Rafters	16	13	3	0	116	44	26
Bohs.	15	12	2	1	118	32	25
Linnet	15	10	3	2	94	56	22
Cadwa A	14	8	5	1	83	57	17
Crawfords	15	8	7	0	81	69	16
Bath St.	14	6	8	0	75	65	12
L'pool C.C.	14	3	8	3	59	81	9
Rafters A	12	4	8	0	36	84	8
Anfield	15	3	11	1	52	98	7
Bootle Nalگو	12	1	11	0	18	102	2
Tech. Stds.	14	0	14	0	0	140	0

MOYA Jones' 100% record in this division went by the board when Cadwa had their return match with Bohemians a couple of weeks ago. Judy Crafter, playing at the top of her form, accounted for both Moya and Muriel Willcox, and so spoilt Moya's excellent record, also that of Bohemians, for Judy, by winning her two sets, was mainly instrumental in lifting Cadwa to the top of the table. Until this match with Bohemians, Cadwa had been lying 2nd to them. Bohemians

having been surprisingly beaten by Crawfords (though in all fairness to them they were without Joyce Randall), Cadwa were left one point ahead, and this surprise win consolidated their lead at the top of the table, a position which they last held a few seasons ago. If they win their remaining matches they will now finish champions, with Bohemians second, and possibly Rafters 3rd.

In the Crawfords - Bohemians match, Muriel Willcox was rather surprisingly beaten by Mabel Francis. I think that this is the first time that Mabel has beaten the Liverpool No. 2. Her (Mabel's) game is still a little erratic, though she is gradually tightening it up. Her forehand, when it goes on, is nearly always a winner, but she rushes it rather and it is sometimes "hit or miss". Her energy seems unlimited, and she bounds about like a jack in the box, with perspiration pouring from her.

Bohemians "A" seem to be losing interest. They have conceded quite a few matches this season, but perhaps the bad weather accounts for this. The same applies to Bootle Nalگو, whose enthusiasm also seems to have waned. Let's hope that they will both fulfil their remaining fixtures, as it is most disappointing to the opposing team to find themselves without a match.

There have been some most interesting matches this season — perhaps one of the best I have seen was between Cadwa and Rafters at Rafters. Both teams played some really good table tennis, but perhaps the person who excelled herself the most was Bluey Casselman in her game against Judy. As most of us know, Bluey has a very sound defence and is a fighter all the way. She certainly fought against Judy. Losing the first game 21-11, she fought back to take the second at 13, and the 3rd was a ding-dong battle all the way, neither player having more than a point lead. Bluey defended superbly against Judy's quick hit, and after reaching deuce, Bluey took the set 23-21. It was anybody's game. Of the 10 sets, seven went to three, with Cadwa taking the match 6-4. Elizabeth Loughrey was in splendid form when she defeated Ivy Crafter in straight

Around the Divisions (continued)

sets. She has a surprising backhand which is most effective, and caught Ivy on the hop quite a few times. In her game against Pauline Lawrenson she wasn't so lucky, losing the first game on a deuce, then taking the second but failing to hang on in the third. Nevertheless it was a very good game, as was Pauline's with Myra Lovelady, both players mixing their game well, and again it was anybody's game right to the end when Pauline won on a deuce. Myra also played very well against me in a 3-game match, but she fell away in the 3rd. Jean Reynolds also played brilliantly to beat Judy in 3 games. This time I had my revenge for my earlier defeat by Jean, but not before she had forced me to yet another 3 games. Altogether a most enjoyable match, plus the Rafter's usual enjoyable sandwiches and home made cakes!

I see from the score cards that Rafter's and Bohemians also had a 6-4 match, the Rafter's side once again just failing to either win or make a draw. Bluey again did very well to beat Joyce Randall in 3 games. All this and the mother of four young children. Where does she get her energy from?

Anfield and Linnets had a very tight match ending in a draw with Reggie Royle and Dorothy Green-smith winning both sets and Olga Eagle one for Anfield, and Milly Harris, Amy Bell, and Monica O'Donnell 1 each for Linnets, with Linnets winning both doubles. This sort of match creates far more interest than winning 10-0 or 9-1.

Linnets beat Crawfords 6-4 with Lily Wynne playing at the top of her form to account for both Mabel Francis and Joyce Barton in two very close games.

Gloria Burns has come back fighting fit this season, and has had good wins over Doris D'Arcy; Jean Reynolds and Elizabeth Loughrey, and came near to defeating Judy Crafter when the "A" team played the first.

Congratulations to Barbara Topping on being selected to play for the Liverpool "A" team against Blackpool and Stockport. A very keen and enthusiastic player, she will, I am sure, be a credit to the City team, and will acquit herself well.

Eileen Mansell.

EST. 1865

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Sandwich a "Must" —

If you want to get to the top

—says Mabel Francis (Crawford's)
in reply to Don Cameron

IF other countries use sandwich then we must or never again look forward to producing a World Champion, for the sandwich bat definitely has the advantage over the ordinary pimpled-rubber one.

In the Liverpool League, this season has seen even more change-overs, but there remain a few who are still faithful to the plain rubber, but must be finding it increasingly difficult to do so. It's a case of "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em".

The stroke to which it gives more proficiency is the half-volley. This stroke (if you can call it one) is, to my mind, a lazy one, and was never played so often as it is now, for with a sandwich bat there's nothing to it. With one of these "weapons" spin services are the thing. These I deplore (don't we all) but must admit they get many out of a tight spot. Thus, more importance becomes attached to serving, but surely the purpose of service is to put the ball into play, *then* work for a point. Table Tennis is supposed to be an exercising game, but hardly becomes so when half of the points are either won or lost through difficult spin services. There's just no game at all.

Sandwich bats are the bats of youth for in my opinion the reason why there are so many young international stars today is because they have the speed and stamina that is

so necessary for the now faster game, produced by the use of these bats coupled with the fact that the older players just can't stand the pace.

Now, to be a good player, you've not got to use an "ordinary" sandwich bat, but one sporting the Jap. rubber. It makes me wonder—What's next? Nowadays, as Mr. Cameron bemoans, *it is* a rare thing to see a good game between two plain rubber bats with good stroke play, which is not only better to watch but better to listen to. All we hear now is "plop" and "slap" instead of a good cracking sound.

Just a small comment on what Mr. Cameron also said about watching what must have been a rotten final (in one of the past Liverpool League Champs.) and good money having been paid to see it. The players were not there solely to entertain the public, so to speak. They were not exhibitionists interested in the 'gate-money', they were there for themselves only. There's no possibility about it, the modern player *is* only concerned with how to win. Anyway, having to pay to watch any table tennis match is no guarantee that you'll see good table tennis.

Incidentally, I agree that there would be hardly anybody who could say who was the present World Champion—but there may be a few who could spell it!

Are you an Artist ?

The Editorial Board would like to see a "new look" cover for the "Digest" and, accordingly, invite any budding artists, with ideas, to submit their suggestions, bearing in mind the following points:—

1. The design to be relatively simple.
2. To be the size of one full page.

3. Allowance to be made for the existing wording on the cover.
4. No more than one colour to be used in addition to black and white.

Send your design to me, A. Montgomery, Features Editor, 83, Lark Lane, Liverpool 17, and you never know—the Management Committee might present a small prize to the winner.

"Get With It" - Don

urges JIM GREEN

DONALD my friend, your observations regarding the relative merits of the "old" and the "new" style of play shows a distinct tendency to emulate the ostrich, burying your head in the sand, but unfortunately the human figure is such that this posture raises the posterior in a most unsightly manner, but one which could not be bettered for a swift kick in the seat.

Why cannot it now be accepted in Liverpool, as it seems to have been everywhere else, that the sandwich bat, with the resultant *speeding-up* of the game has come to stay. The old style game of attack v. defence is as out of date as the Victorian game in full evening dress on the dining room table, and the modern generation of young, hard hitting players have taken the game a step further than that of a generation ago when the "circus came to town". And, let it be said, the moderns can put on a show just as thrilling as could the stars of pre-war, in proof of which take the comment of spectators at the English Closed (per the national magazine)

that "if that's table tennis we'll come again".

The trouble is that here in Liverpool we have too many old players who see no good in the modern trend simply because they can't do it, nor can they cope with those who can do it, so they sit back and moan about the good old days.

And attendances at the Merseyside finals dropped away out of sight when Bergman and Simons were finalists, so the sandwich bat had nothing to do with it.

Get with it, Don! Go buy yourself a "sandwich" and get up to date, for nothing is more certain than the coming generation of players will follow the present-day stars, even as you and your fellow followed those pre-war greats. Good luck to the moderns, and may their spirit of adventure lead to Liverpool once more producing players of note, even as Ralph Gunnion lifted himself from being another competent player to county class by moving with the times.

Still, I'll say this, you ARE a darned good Treasurer.

Letter to the Editor.

"CLOSED SHOP" ATTITUDE TO TEENAGERS?

YOUNGSTER HITS OUT.

Dear Sir,

Having just read my second "Digest" I cannot help noticing the repeated cry for "more youngsters, please!" I believe that this is due to the "closed shop" attitude of many clubs towards today's teenagers. Why don't they realise that there are hundreds of youngsters playing in youth clubs, e.g. the Liverpool Boys' Association.

The standard of play may not be very high on the whole but if they are taught the correct rules—e.g. service—and coached for one night a week during the closed season they will quickly improve as they are keen, despite what people think.

Clubs should follow the example of Wavertree Labour and get young players by going to the Boys' clubs and giving a demonstration of how skilful and exciting the game really is and then inviting the boys up to their club (they won't wreck it!) for coaching.

I have found from personal experience that this will work because last year I was a "ping-pong" player before the members of Wavertree Labour came up and gave the youth club I was in a demonstration and invited anyone who wanted to play to go up to the club for coaching.

This will pay dividends for the club as the majority of players in Wavertree Labour are young enough

to improve and as our 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams are top of their respective divisions, are all through to the semi-final of their respective cups (they would all be in the finals except for a draw which brought the 1st and 2nd team together), there is a bright future in store for the club.

It is now up to you, the people who are crying out for young players, to adopt a youth club in your district and get to work showing them how exciting Table Tennis can be.

I did not know that Table Tennis was played on such a large scale. I thought that the only people who played in competition were Johnny Leach and the "Japs" until I joined Wavertree Labour. I would like to thank everyone concerned with the club for the help and enjoyment they have given me.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) E. BIRCH.

Leading Averages

NOTE—While every care is taken in the compilation of these records, no responsibility can be accepted for any error which may occur.

* Denotes at least 75% of Sets played at 1 or 2. Cup matches are included.

DIVISION 1.	P	W	%
* E. Mandaluff (L'pool YM)	32	31	96.87
* A. C. Taylor (Rafters)	22	21	95.45
D. Ferguson (Rafters)	36	33	91.66
J. Cain (L'pool YM)	20	18	90.00
* W. Allanson (Bootele YM)	26	23	88.38
* P. E. D'Arcy (Bohemians)	34	30	88.23
* K. Roberts (L'pool YM 'A')	24	21	87.50
* R. Smith (L'pool YM)	32	27	84.23
* W. Harris (Oakhill)	22	18	81.81

DIVISION 2.	P	W	%
G. Birch (Cadwa)	28	26	92.85
* D. Reed (University)	26	24	92.30
* H. Willcock (Cadwa)	30	27	90.00
* A. Heyes (Lucem)	28	25	89.28
* J. Rimmer (Lucem)	28	24	85.71
K. Davies (Lucem)	20	17	85.0

DIVISION 3.	P	W	%
* G. Sanders (L'pool C.C.)	24	22	91.66
* H. Reeve (Linacre)	20	18	90.00
* F. Pheysey (E.E.C.)	38	34	89.47
F. Bamford (L'pool C.C.)	26	23	83.38
* L. Sturzaker (Anfield A)	22	18	81.81
R. Burge (L'pool C.C.)	26	21	80.76
* E. Smitton (E.E.C.)	34	27	79.41

DIVISION 4.	P	W	%
N. Chaloner (Wav. Labour)	26	24	92.30
E. Moran (Wav. Labour)	24	22	91.66
R. McPherson (Cadwa A)	20	18	90.00
F. Farquharson (Wav. Lab.)	24	21	87.50
* P. Hurworth (Wav. Lab.)	22	19	86.36
J. Jones (Cadwa A)	20	17	85.00

DIVISION 5.	P	W	%
P. Byrne (Wav. Labour)	36	32	88.88
* T. Owens (Wav. Labour)	34	29	85.29
* K. Chambers (Wav. Labour)	34	29	85.29
* A. Jones (Crawfords)	28	23	82.14
A. Siddall (Wav. Labour)	32	25	78.12

DIVISION 6.	P	W	%
* R. McEvoy (Wav. Lab. B)	28	28	100.00
* A. Lyn (Stan. House)	28	27	96.42
E. Gilmour (Wav. Lab. B)	28	26	92.85
* B. Roberts (Tech. Studs.)	28	24	85.71
* A. Tolson (Wav. Lab. B)	24	20	83.33
* A. Crawshaw (Tech. Studs.)	28	23	82.14

DIVISION 7.	P	W	%
* E. Dorfman (L'pool C.C. C.)	24	22	91.66
W. Eymond (Crawfords B)	22	19	86.36
* A. Matthias (St. Leonards)	22	19	86.36
J. H. Nelson (Colonsay)	22	19	86.36
D. Magrane (Crawfords B)	28	23	82.14

DIVISION 8.	P	W	%
* D. Mahen (Mossley Hill)	24	24	100.00
* J. Thorley (Anfield D)	16	14	87.50
* W. F. Dean (Lussac)	34	29	85.29
D. Winnall (Mossley Hill)	26	22	84.61
* F. Brown (Maghull Co-op)	24	20	83.33
J. Molyneux (Wav. Lab. C)	22	18	81.81

WOMEN'S DIVISION.

* M. Jones (Bohemians)	20	19	95.00
* E. Mansell (Cadwa)	26	24	92.30
J. Randall (Bohemians)	20	18	90.00
* M. Willcox (Bohemians)	24	21	87.50
I. Crafter (Cadwa)	26	22	84.61
G. Burns (Cadwa A)	18	15	83.33
* J. A. Crafter (Cadwa)	30	25	83.33

DOUBLES.

I. Crafter & P. Lawrenson	11	11	100.00
* J. Crafter & E. Mansell	13	12	92.30
* M. Jones & M. Willcox	10	9	90.00

THREE-A-SIDE DIVISION.

R. Smith (L'pool YM)	27	26	96.29
N. R. Jones (L'pool YM)	21	20	95.23
E. Mandaluff (L'pool YM)	33	31	93.93
P. Hurworth (Wav. Labour)	24	21	87.50
H. Willcock (Cadwa)	36	31	86.11