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**TABLE  
TENNIS  
DIGEST**

*Official Magazine*

OF THE

**LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

# TABLE DIGEST TENNIS

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

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EDITORIAL BOARD :

Editor : Eric Caird

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

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## EDITORIAL

**WE** begin this issue with a personal note of apology from the Editor. Unfortunately, owing to a family bereavement about the time the issue was due to go to press, immediately followed by a serious illness in the family, production of the "Digest" had to be suspended for a while—hence its belated appearance. However, there is no question of cutting short the number of issues—there will be one in May which will deal with such matters as the Cup Finals, Reviews of the Season by our Divisional Correspondents, Final League Tables and, we hope, Letters to the Editor on some of the features appearing on the succeeding pages.

As you read through this issue it will become apparent that many members have been giving considerable thought to improving the standard of play in Liverpool as well as stimulating interest which has all too obviously flagged in recent years.

The Management Committee have submitted their plan for your consideration. David Butterworth (on behalf of his club) his, and Jimmy Green and Monty theirs. All have considerable merit, all are worthy of serious thought. But, as we have said so often in the past, serious thought is not enough—action can only be taken once a year—at the A.G.M.

The Editorial Board urges all its readers to consider most carefully the schemes put forward and to ensure that their feelings are made clear at the A.G.M. by a delegate who has been properly briefed beforehand.

If you do this we shall, at least, get the scheme most wanted by the majority. If you don't then we can resign ourselves to yet another season of ineffectual futility and frustration. Should you have strong feelings for, or against, any of the schemes, or, indeed, have one of your own, please write and tell us. In this way a lot of discussion might take place before the A.G.M. to everyone's advantage.

## PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

### ARTHUR TAYLOR

SOME 12 years ago, ARTHUR TAYLOR entered the League playing for Litherland in the North Region, and so impressive was his debut that he played in the Liverpool team in his first season. For nearly three years he remained unbeaten in League matches, going for more than 100 matches without defeat, losing eventually for the first time to R. Hulse, the Crewe player, then assisting Wavertree Community Centre.

In his career, he has been a regular member of the Liverpool side and has been an automatic choice for several years. On one occasion he played for Lancashire, and was unfortunate in not being selected on other occasions. Four times the Liverpool "Closed" Singles champion, and runner-up on two other occasions is a proud record, and several times has won doubles titles, including three "Mixed" with his wife, Barbara (who has herself played for the City teams on occasion).

Although one of the outstanding players in the League, he has the happy knack of enjoying games against lesser bods, seldom "murdering" his opponent, and it has been very rare for a beaten opponent to fail to enjoy his game. It has never been Arthur's practice to display the "prima donna" tantrums of certain players, and we feel that in paying him this small tribute we are repaying some small part of the great service he has afforded Liverpool table tennis.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Editor,

In response to Monty's cry for more articles, perhaps you would like a run-down on the state of the game on the West Coast of South America?

Starting at Panama—there is a very good table at the American Services Y.M.C.A. in Colon. Unfortunately, you have to be an American Service-man before you can get a game; not even my crew-cut could wangle me one.

Only in Lima, the capital, did I find an organised League. The English Cricket Club is a member of this League and any Liverpool T.T. player who finds himself or herself at a loose end on a Thursday evening in Lima (the very idea!) he or she will be very welcome, as I was, to a game and a pleasant evening. Apart from Lima, however, the Peruvian coastline is bereft of T.T. tables. It's rumoured that the Spaniards confiscated the last of the Inca's stocks at the turn of the century.

Chile is mostly desert. This applies both to the landscape and to table tennis facilities. The one oasis I found was in Valparaiso. The Seamen's Mission not only supplies the table but also 4 or 5 Chilean Senioritas who can give you a good start and a beating.

So, as far as I can see Liverpool T.T. is in a much healthier state than at least 5 countries. Added to this our wonderful climate is ideally suited to the game while these other countries have to play on warm sultry evenings.

Yours sincerely,

HARRY REEVE (Linacre T.T.C.).

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# Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The joint authors of this somewhat revolutionary article have often pondered on various ways and means of increasing enthusiasm and generally stimulating interest in table tennis in the Merseyside area, and one of our pet ideas is one which has already been put into operation in another area with unqualified success, although on a far greater scale than would be necessary here.

On Merseyside we have three major Leagues, the Business Houses, Wirral and our own. There are several minor Leagues who could join in if they so desired, but for the purpose of this article, we will confine ourselves to these three.

Each of these Leagues has its own identity which they desire most earnestly to preserve, and, while nothing should be done to impair this individual identity, we suggest that closer co-operation between them is both desirable and necessary. This would be best achieved by the formation of a Merseyside T.T. Federation to which all three would belong, with a representative Committee to govern and control its activities.

Such a Federation would provide the most effective form of liaison between the member Leagues, so keeping each fully aware of the activities of the others, for example, the dates of "Closed" tournaments and Cup semi-finals and finals which could then be so arranged that clashes would be avoided.

In addition, while each League would carry out its own League and Cup programme (as now) without consultation with the others, in place of our own abortive 3-a-side division, a PREMIER LEAGUE could be provided, open to one team only from any club in membership from all three Leagues. This, we understand, has operated with great success in Birmingham, and by this means the clubs would play in active League warfare against club sides from all member Leagues, providing match play of a high standard each week in addition to the "local" match. Players would be assured of meeting others of comparable ability

every week, without recourse to drastic internal re-organisation of individual Leagues. Since different systems of match play are in use in all Leagues, it may be that 3, 4, or 5 a side would have to be agreed, but again, in Birmingham, the Premier League is on a 3-a-side basis.

Financially, such a Federation could benefit all Leagues. The cost of printing three handbooks could be reduced by printing one only, to cover the activities of all, the cost to be defrayed by member Leagues in proportion to the number of handbooks required. The cost might further be reduced by standardising certain basic rules to cut down "setting-up" charges. A player taking part in more than one League would be obliged to nominate one to have first claim on his services, and would only be allowed to play for a club of that League in the Premier League, and would receive his handbook from the club nominated by him.

In a similar manner, the "Digest" could be enlarged to apportion a set number of pages to each League and to the Federation (for the Premier League) the balance to be left open for articles, letters, etc., from any member of any League. And while each League would continue to play in the Lincs. and Ches. League (as now) it may well prove that stronger teams might be held by entering the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl as Merseyside rather than individually.

The possibilities of such an organisation are unlimited, and there are few snags which cannot be eliminated by a genuine desire from all Leagues to make it a success, and effort by the League Committees towards a common goal, but we fear that there exists, in some quarters, a militant feeling against other local Leagues which would have to be overcome. It would be entirely useless to attempt to bring the Leagues into closer contact unless officials concerned were prepared to work without jealousy and suspicion, but instead with a keen wish for harmony and a joint effort to make the thing "go".

A shot in the arm is sorely needed throughout the whole area as regards

our sport, and the adoption of a Federation such as this might well prove the one we require. In any case no harm can result while there is every possibility for success.

May we suggest that the individual

Leagues Committees start discussions to see if anything on these lines can be achieved.

Yours, etc.,

JIMMY GREEN and "MONTY"

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## CHAMPION NEWS

### " CHAMPION NEWS "

#### County Recognition for Judy

**W**E are pleased to report that County honours came the way of our Ladies' Champion on 16th March, 1963, when Miss Judy Crafter was selected to play for Lancashire 2nd against Northumberland 2nd at the Y.M.C.A., Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Although Lancashire lost 1-9 Judy acquitted herself well against much more experienced opposition and turned in a display which was really quite commendable.

When asked for her impressions of the match Judy could speak only of the wonderful way in which the team was entertained and of the kindness, courtesy and hospitality extended to her. How nice to hear such tributes and to know that they were well merited. Not surprising that after that experience Judy is now more keen than ever to " make the grade ".

### SUCCESS UPON SUCCESS

#### FOR RALPH

Again we feel obliged to offer congratulations to our Closed champion, Ralph Gunnion, this time on his promotion to the No. 1 spot in the Warwickshire County team, and his excellent record therein. He was presented with his county badge earlier in the season after winning his two sets against Surrey, and by his performance has thoroughly deserved the honour.

We have read with considerable interest of his exploits in Prague where he covered himself in glory in the Men's Doubles.

We can only hope that he is not lost permanently to Liverpool, and that the near future may see his return, but wherever he may be, the League will take the keenest interest and pride in his career.

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# Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I am submitting an idea for League members' comments on a reconstruction of the Table Tennis League. The divisions will be as follows subject to end of season League Tables :

## Premier Division.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A.  
Liverpool Y.M.C.A. " A "  
Rafters  
Bohemians  
Bootle Y.M.C.A.  
Oakhill  
Anfield  
Balfour

—8 teams altogether.

They will play one another 3 times during the season, with only 5 players in a team.

## Division 2a.

Rafters " A "  
Victoria Park  
Bootle Y.M.C.A. " A "  
C.A.D.W.A.  
Fairlawn  
Bath Street  
R.A.F.A.  
Waterloo Park  
Liverpool Y.M.C.A. " B "  
Victoria Park " B "

## Division 2b.

Bohemians " A "  
Linnet  
Waterloo Dock  
Lucem  
Beauclair  
University  
L.P.A.S.  
Victoria Park " A "  
Rafters " B "  
Liverpool C.C.

10 teams per division with 5 players per team. The top team out of each division will go into the Premier Division at end of season.

## Division 3a.

Linacre  
Bohemians " B "  
Bath Street " A "  
Sefton  
Oakhill " A "  
Victoria Park " C "  
Liverpool P.O.  
Fairlawn " A "  
Waterloo Park " A "  
C.A.D.W.A. " B "

## Division 3b.

English Electric  
L.P.A.S. " A "  
Anfield " A "  
Linnet " A "  
Bootle Y.M.C.A. " B "  
Wavertree Labour  
C.A.D.W.A. " A "  
Waterloo Dock " A "  
Bath Street " B "  
Linnet " B "

10 teams per division, 2 teams out of each division going into each of the above divisions. The above divisions will have their own sub-committee to run their own tournament and organise inter-divisional matches.

## REGIONAL DIVISIONS as follows :

### Region " A "

Oakhill " B "  
Crawfords " A "  
Anfield " B "  
Rafters " C "  
Stanley House  
L.P.A.S. " B "  
Beauclair " B "  
Lewis's  
Liverpool C.C. " D "  
Linnet " D "  
Wavertree Labour " C "  
Tech. Students " A "

### Region " T "

Bootle Y.M.C.A. " C "  
Liverpool C.C.C " A "  
Fairlawn " B "  
Bootle Nalgo  
English Electric " A "  
Anfield " C "  
Linnet " C "  
Crawfords " B "  
Catholic Metropolitan  
Oakhill " C "  
Orrell  
Lowlands " A "

### Region " C "

Crawfords  
Liverpool Y.M.C.A. " C "  
Beauclair " A "  
Wavertree Labour " B "  
Liverpool C.C. " B "  
University " A "  
Colonsay  
St. Leonards  
English Electric " C "  
Mossley Hill  
Anfield " D "  
Lucem " A "

## Region "D"

Wavertree Labour "A"  
 St. Edward's O.B. "A"  
 Domestic Mission  
 Tech. Students  
 English Electric "B"  
 Bath Street "C"  
 Liverpool C.C. "C"  
 Lowlands  
 University "B"  
 Lussac  
 Maghull Co-Operative  
 Colonsay "A"

12 teams per region, 2 teams from each region to go up into the divisions 3a, b, respectively. The regions will have a sub-committee to organise their own tournament and inter-region matches.

All committees will be subject to the Management Committee of the Liverpool League.

This idea has been sanctioned by the Club Committee and any comments will be welcome.

I should like you to note that this reconstruction will benefit the whole League.

(Signed)

D. BUTTERWORTH.

## Around the Divisions

(By our Special Correspondents)

### Division I

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
L'pool YM	22	22	0	0	189	31	44
Bohs.	23	17	5	1	160	70	35
Rafters	20	16	3	1	147	53	33
L'pl. YM A	22	14	6	2	137	83	30
Bootle YM	22	14	7	1	129	91	29
Anfield	22	12	8	2	115	105	26
Balfour	22	9	9	4	113	107	22
Rafters A	22	6	13	3	83	137	15
Wat. Dock	22	5	13	4	84	136	14
Oakhill	16	11	3	2	58	49	12
Bohs. A	22	5	15	2	95	155	12
Linnets	23	3	16	4	74	156	10
Btl YM A	23	1	18	4	61	169	6
Victoria Pk	19	1	16	2	51	139	4

**L**IVERPOOL, Y.M.C.A. are now home and dry as League champions. Their "A" team virtually clinched it for them by beating Rafters 6-4 to give their first team a clear five points lead over Bohemians and Rafters, now battling it out for second place. There is no doubt that the absence for the last few matches of Arthur Taylor has proved too big a handicap for Rafters, for a player of his ability is irreplaceable when running for the championship.

The pace is hotting up at the nether end too. Visiting Victoria Park, Anfield had a tough time before winning 6-4, due mainly to doubles by Lawson and Cuff, with Barnes and Riding adding one each. Which shows that the Park don't intend to accept relegation without a fight. Linnets won their first

match of the season at Waterloo Dock 7-3, which makes it more than likely that Bootle YMCA "A" and Victoria Park will be the unlucky pair for the big drop.

Linnets win was earned by two reserves pulling rather more than their weight. Frank Thomas and Dennis Underhill each won two, the other regular first teamer having a bad night with a nought. Then the reserves did their stuff, Jeff Grimshaw beating both Les Sille and Charlie Dunne, and Eric Wood adding one for luck. So the relegation zone is still rather more open than is the head of the table.

Rafters "A" assured themselves of another season at least in the first division by means of a 9-1 win over Bohemians "A". Oakhill steadily climb away from the foot, and although they have a few points, their record shows that they would have been well up with the leaders had they not run into administrative troubles.

It is an interesting commentary that no team has conceded a 10-0 walkover in this division, and only on three occasions have sets been lost by non-attendance. It is far and away the best record in this respect for any division of the League, and to my mind it shows that the higher up the League you go, the keener are the players, despite arguments to the contrary.

Jim Green.

## Around the Divisions

### Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Cadwa	22	22	0	0	192	28	44
Lucem	21	16	2	3	151	159	35
Fairlawn	21	15	4	2	134	76	32
University	22	9	10	3	98	122	21
RAFA	18	9	7	2	98	82	20
Beauclair	20	8	8	4	101	99	20
Bath St.	18	7	6	5	84	96	19
LPAS	20	7	10	3	89	111	17
Wat. Park	18	6	11	1	77	103	13
Rafters B	18	4	13	1	63	117	9
Vic. Pk. A	19	3	15	1	53	137	7
Vic. Pk. B	21	0	20	1	50	160	1

**CADWA**, having run away with Division 2, were set for promotion with weeks to spare leaving Fairlawn and Lucem to battle it out for second place. The meeting of Lucem and Cadwa gave the Division 2 leaders their hardest match of the season. Although Cadwa emerged as winners, 6-4, only Gordon Birch's double success seemed completely convincing. He beat A. Heyes 15 and 10, and K. Davies 9 and 12. All of the other members of the Cadwa team lost one event each, Wilcock falling to Heyes, Eden to Rimmer, Crafter to Davies, and Travis to Jackson. Mrs. Rimmer was the unfortunate Lucem player to lose both sets, but in a memorable game with Bill Crafter she nearly managed to force him to three, losing 31-33 in the second.

In a previous edition I said that Beauclair could influence the top placings with home games yet to play against Fairlawn and Lucem. Since that time both of these matches have been played, and the results were 7-3 defeats for the Beauclair side. In the match against Fairlawn, however, they were unable to turn out at full strength and of course they might have done a little better if Weston and Rix had been playing. As it was, B. Pardy, B. Morris, and J. Whisler lost all their events, D. Inge lost one, and the Beauclair captain, Charlie Grimes won both, including one victory over your truly. E. Mooney and B. Carter won two each for Fairlawn while P. Whalley, J. and B. Leeson managed one each.

Waterloo Park, after narrowly losing 4-6 at Bath Street, made their position more secure by defeating the bottom team, Victoria Park "B" 8-2. S. Yeoman, A. Haydon and P. Ross won all their sets fairly comfortably, while for the losers, G. Cope defeated W. Spencer and Mr. Frydman beat K. Nelson.

I think that this Victoria Park team deserves a special word of commendation for their efforts this season. The same team has turned out regularly, playing in the same order, and although they have not yet won a match, they remain cheerful, and give the impression that they are not downhearted. They deserve some success before the season ends.

How form varies from year to year! Last year Rafters "B" were neck and neck with Fairlawn in the bid to top the Third Division. This year they have been concerned to avoid returning whence they came whilst Fairlawn, on the other hand, have been much in the running for a place in the First Division next year.

Brian Leeson.

### Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
L'pool CC	18	16	1	1	140	40	33
Lpl. YM B	19	16	2	1	135	55	33
L'lnacre	20	13	5	2	137	63	28
Eng. Elec.	20	10	5	5	112	88	25
Anfield A	19	10	7	2	108	82	22
Bath St. A	20	7	9	4	99	101	18
LPAS A	18	6	10	2	70	110	14
Bohs. B	18	6	10	2	76	104	14
Linnet A	18	5	9	4	77	103	14
Sefton	18	3	11	4	68	112	10
Oakhill A	14	4	9	1	38	86	7
Bt. YM B	20	0	20	0	28	172	0

*Note.* Victoria Pk C withdrawn  
(Record expunged)

**I**N the all-important match (the one possibly which will ultimately decide the championship) between Liverpool YMCA "B" and Liverpool C.C., the former crashed in a somewhat startling fashion, going down 9 sets to 1. The Y.M.'s consolation set was won by the



## Around the Divisions—continued

consistent. Goldson, who, after losing the first game against L. Lewis to 9, went on to win the next two 19 and 15. Apart from this, such was the superiority of the Cricket Club that only two other sets went to three. So revenge was obtained for the Cricketers only defeat of the season, and in view of the positions of the teams, was rather more than sweet.

The only two other teams contending for promotion were Linacre and English Electric. The latter, after setting off at a cracking pace had a run in which they only took 6 points from 6 matches, whilst Linacre, over the same period, took 11, including one from the Cricket Club, making them only the second team of the season to take points from that source.

Fred Pheysey, now in his third season near (or at) the top of the division averages went down unaccountably easily to YMCA's No. 2, R. Goldson at 13, 16 and 9. A remarkably fine win for Goldson. A couple of matches or so later, Pheysey again lost, most unexpectedly to Linnets Eric Wood, who, since his team were depleted by supplying first-team reserves, was promoted to No. 1, and then calmly proceeded to hit Pheysey off.

At the other end of the table, Oakhill "A" despite their serious handicap, were steadily pulling away from the foot, and seemed likely to finish well away from the relegation zone when Victoria Park dropped out of the League leaving them and Bootle YMCA "B" in dire straits, which is a pity for nobody wanted to see Oakhill relegated under the circumstances.

They caused a surprise, incidentally, by holding the somewhat erratic English Electric to a draw, though handicapped by having a reserve at No. 1. Les Davies scored a double for Oakhill, and repeated the performance when his side, at full strength this time, went down to Bath Street "A".

Len Davies.

## Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Wav. Lab	14	14	0	0	139	1	28
Cadwa A	15	13	2	0	119	31	26
L'pool P.O.	17	9	3	3	82	68	21
Fairlawn A	16	7	4	5	86	74	19
Wat. Dk. A	16	6	6	4	76	84	16
Bath St. B	16	6	8	2	66	94	14
Cadwa B	16	5	8	3	68	92	13
Wat. Pk. A	16	2	12	2	58	102	6
Oakhill B	10	1	8	1	8	68	2
Linnet B	14	0	13	1	25	115	1

Note.—Bootle YM "C" withdrawn  
(Record expunged).

**A**TTEENDANCES this season have been very good generally in the division, and particularly to be commended are those with a 100—attendance record — Wavertree Labour, Bootle YMCA "C", Cadwa "A", Waterloo Dock "A" and Fairlawn "A". Cadwa "A" have gained most from other teams failure to turn up, having gained three 10-0 walk-overs.

The Wavertree Labour Steamroller heads the Division with Cadwa "A" keeping ahead of Liverpool P.O. in the struggle for second place.

Such is the superiority of the Wavertree side that opponents are delighted to win a game, let alone a set, and this state of affairs is likely to continue until they reach their rightful sphere.

Congratulations are due to them on getting two teams to the semi-finals of the Rumjahn Cup and in proving the ultimate winners of that trophy by beating Crawford in the final. Their players all figure prominently in the leading averages, and the following four players are noteworthy also:— J. Jones (still a junior) and R. McPherson (both Cadwa "A") and A. Campbell and W. Shiel (Post Office).

Other teams have no outstanding averages to show but in the meantime closely contested matches are being fought out. R. Lavin (Fairlawn "A") gained two good sets in his team's draw with Waterloo Dock "A"—a repeat of the score in their earlier match. A weakened Waterloo Park side put up a stout resistance before losing to Fairlawn, who, barring a bad collapse, look likely

## Around the Divisions (continued)

to take fourth place. At the lower end, Linnets "B", Oakhill "B" and Bootle YMCA "C" continue to put up creditable performances despite frequent defeats. R. McCracken of Oakhill is a useful player, and Linnets two juniors, G. Adams and S. White continue to show up well. Even allowing for Oakhill's forfeiture of points, a study of the tables quickly shows the dominance of the rest of the division over these three sides, and they are commended for their continued enthusiasm.

Les Harper.

### Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wav. Lab. A	19	18	0	1	170	20	37
Crawfords	20	17	1	2	156	44	36
Lpl. C.C. A	19	10	3	6	115	75	26
Crawf'd A	19	12	6	1	118	72	25
St. Edw. OB	20	11	6	3	120	80	25
Lpl. YM C	20	10	6	4	107	93	24
Anfield B	20	11	8	1	100	100	23
Fairlawn B	20	7	13	0	71	129	14
Beauclair A	20	3	14	3	64	136	9
Dom. Miss.	20	3	15	2	68	132	8
Rafters C	20	1	16	3	54	146	5
Btl. Nalگو	19	1	16	2	37	153	4

**T**HE top two positions go to Wavertree Labour "A", and Crawfords who can both look forward to playing in a higher sphere next season. Crawfords, without Arthur Jones, had a fright when visiting Liverpool YMCA "C", having to struggle to win 6-4, which demonstrated two things—first that even a promotion-looking side cannot afford to play without their No. 1, and two, the overall strength of the YMCA when their fourth team can hold Crawfords first team so close. Crawfords had to thank A. Harrison and Phil Cox mainly, both scoring doubles with Gabler and Wood adding one each. For YM, John Taylor with 2 at No. 1, and Travis and Samber (1 each) did the damage.

Crawfords "A" and Liverpool C.C. "A" are scrapping for third place, with St. Edward's running both close.

Bootle Nalگو appear doomed and will have either the luckless Rafters "C" or Domestic Mission as companions in distress. Possibly Bootle

Nalگو deserve this "honour" rather more than the others, for they have given away two 10-0 walk-overs, and twice have conceded sets. It is not easy to retain a place in any division giving matches away in this style.

Fairlawn have cause to feel pride in their Barbara Hand, who did so well in the Civil Service competition that she went to Manchester to represent Liverpool. We have not yet heard how she got on, but she can be pleased that she earned the right to go.

Wavertree Labour "A" lost a personal interest in the Rumjahn Cup in the semi-final when they lost 8-2 to their own first team, this being the second Cup this season which they have met with the same fate. This time especially, it is unfortunate that the two Labour sides could not have avoided each other again, for we might have seen an all-Wavertree final.

### Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Wav. Lab B	21	19	0	2	172	38	40
Coll Tech.	20	16	2	2	143	57	34
Engl Elec A	20	15	5	0	131	69	30
Stan. Hse	20	11	6	3	114	86	25
Anfield C	19	11	7	1	111	79	23
Lpl. CC B	18	9	6	3	97	83	21
Eng. Elec B	19	8	8	3	103	87	19
LPAS B	18	6	9	3	86	94	15
Unvsty A	20	5	13	2	79	121	12
Bath St. C	19	3	14	2	59	131	8
B'clair B	20	3	16	1	55	145	7
Linnets C	20	0	20	0	20	180	0

**W**ITH Wavertree Labour beating off all challengers our promotion and relegation problems have virtually sorted themselves out.

Wavertree followed an 8-2 win over Stanley House with a draw against Tech. Students. Surely this must have been the season's outstanding game, with the two giants, McEvoy and Plat not meeting and winning two each.

Thanks mainly to the fine form of Ray Callaghan, English Electric "A" finished a fine run with a 6-4 win at Stanley House. Our penholder kings, George Moon and Alan Lyn battled it out, with Lyn losing his second set of the season 18 in the 3rd. A confident Electric side then met

## Around the Divisions (continued)

Tech Students in a battle for second place, but Students proved far too good, thanks to Roberts, Crawshaw and Owens. Their win over what is a very strong Anfield side these days was much tougher than expected, but victory for Crawshaw over Southall 28-26 in the third gave them both points.

In contrast, there was nothing close in the battle for the wooden spoon, Beauclair beating Linnetts "C" 10-0.

Highlights of the month: Dorricott two of three for his side v. Anfield. Rix scored his team's sole success, Lyn doubled his bag of losses for the season, and Ali notched up two wins, all against Wavertree Labour. Lawson with a double against Electric "A", and Dagnall (as reserve) won two vital sets v. Stanley House. Ron McEvoy still holds 100% record. Wavertree progressed to the Hyde Cup final with a 9-1 win over Colonsay, and Electric "A" lost 3-7 (after a 5-5 draw) to Crawfords "B".

Jack Lambert.

### Division 7

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Colonsay	16	13	2	1	122	38	27
Crawfords B	14	10	1	3	97	43	23
St. Leonards	14	9	3	2	86	53	20
Lpl. CC 'C'	14	8	5	1	91	49	17
Cath. Met.	16	7	8	1	75	85	15
Lpl. CC 'D'	14	6	5	3	74	66	15
Lowlands	14	6	8	0	63	77	12
Eng. Elec. C	14	2	11	1	48	92	5
Oakhill C	11	0	9	2	9	88	0
Linnet D	12	0	12	0	3	116	0

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to Crawfords "B" on a fine performance in overcoming 6th division opponents English Electric "A" in the semi-final of the Hyde Cup 7-3, after a drawn first encounter. I am sure that everyone playing in this division will wish them the best of luck for their encounter with Wavertree Labour in the final, a few weeks hence.

I have noticed that several teams appear to be quite content to give away walk-overs. Recently, Lewis's went to Lowlands with a three-man team. I cannot think that, earlier in the season, when Lewis's were better placed in the promotion race, they

would have thought of doing this. And interest at the University appears to have dropped to nil. At one stage they were at least appearing at alternate away games, but recently even this low average has declined. After making special arrangements with clubs, and obtaining alternative dates to avoid clashing with vacations and examinations, well blow me! They don't even both to turn up at all! I know of one player who made a hurried 60 mile journey to play against them, and boy, oh boy, was he mad?

Crawfords "B" can still be regarded as potential champions, but the battle has really hotted-up and Colonsay must be keeping their fingers crossed. Which of these teams emerges at the top is open to doubt—but one thing is certain—both are booked for promotion.

It is a pity that Catholic Metro did not start their somewhat dramatic ascent of the League Table until after they had lost several matches for later performances indicated that they would have been well up amongst the leaders had Mike Gallagher singed up at the start of the season. Never mind, there's always another year!!

Miss Pat Brown of English Electric "C" has been putting in some good performances. When her side went down 1-9 to Colonsay she won the only set for them by beating the experienced Ron Evans 21-18, 21-19, and very nearly got her second, only going down 19 in the third. K. Smith and G. Dixon are both showing improved form, doing very well at present, and it may be that experience in the 3-a-side division is beginning to make itself felt.

Norman Nelson.

### Division 8

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Mossley Hill	21	20	1	0	168	42	40
Lussac	22	17	4	1	145	75	35
Wav. Lab C	21	15	4	2	134	74	32
Orrell	22	13	5	4	133	85	30
Maghull	22	9	7	6	111	109	24
Anfield D	24	10	11	3	121	119	23
Coll. Tec. A	23	7	13	3	100	124	17
Lucem A	24	5	17	2	70	164	12
Lowlands A	23	3	19	1	62	168	7
Colonsay A	24	3	21	0	72	168	6

## Around the Divisions—Continued

**T**HE weather may have been the worst in living memory—colder than it has ever been—but I am sure that some of the matches in the 8th division warmed up quite a few players before they had to face the elements for the journey home. I am thinking mainly of those drawn matches where the last set played has been won or lost on a deuce in the 3rd. Having been both winner and loser on such occasions, and a spectator on others, I know too well how warm you feel—how intense the feeling that the two points were your own responsibility—the relief if you won or disappointment in defeat. The consolation being that there is sure to be another time!

Mossley Hill made the 8th Division a "one-horse race" from the very beginning and were never in the slightest danger of being displaced. Lussac are worthy runners-up, but should thank Wavertree Labour "C" for conceding a walk-over to Orrell and thus eliminating themselves as a potential danger.

Lucem, who have languished at the foot of the table for the best part of the season, have, with some new signings, pulled themselves well clear and are making rapid headway upwards. It is a pity that they conceded so many sets earlier on by reason of players non-attendance. From their last 5 matches they have won 3, drawn 1 and lost 1.

To date four matches have been lost as 10-0 walk-overs. Maghull have conceded two, one each to Wavertree Labour and Anfield, whilst Wavertree Labour failed to arrive at Orrell, and Lowlands at Technical Students. In various other matches 32 sets have been conceded, and we all hope that the rest of the season is not marred by similar occurrences.

The averages show that we boast one of the only two 100% players throughout the League in Maher of Mossley Hill. The full records of all players with 50% and over were displayed at the "Closed" for all to see.

Lil Jenkins.

## 3 A Side

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
L'pool YM	17	16	1	0	133	20	32
Cadwa	15	13	2	0	103	32	26
Wav. Lab.	17	13	4	0	116	37	26
Fairlawn	14	7	7	0	49	76	14
Bootle YM	14	6	8	0	59	67	12
Balfour	15	6	9	0	44	91	12
Linnit	15	6	9	0	56	79	12
Victoria Pk	15	5	10	0	57	78	10
Wat. Dock	16	4	12	0	46	98	8
Oakhill	12	6	6	0	25	53	6
Lowlands	17	1	16	0	36	117	2

**T**WO more sides have resigned from the division — English Electric and Liverpool Cricket Club — further reducing the numbers. It seems that both clubs found it difficult to find players ready to play in these extra matches, and we now have only Lowlands and Wavertree Labour who do not appear in either the first or second divisions. All good fortune to this Lowlands team who have consistently honoured their obligations in the division, and although they have not had a great deal of success, it is a sure bet that their players have improved by constantly meeting higher quality opposition. We can only hope that they demonstrate what benefit they have received in future matches.

Liverpool YMCA added this division to their championship title and in doing so were one of the very few teams to put out a strong side each week. As we write, Cadwa lie second but still have to play Wavertree Labour. A victory for the latter would bring sets average into the reckoning and on this match anybody's guess is as good as anyone else's.

For the second time this season, Bootle YMCA conceded a walk-over to Victoria Park. A most unfortunate coincidence, since it robbed the Park of a chance to see what they could do against the strong Bootle three.

It seems unlikely that we shall see this division again next season if the players comments are to be believed. Interest fell so quickly that enthusiasm became almost non-existent whilst most clubs appeared to have a lot of trouble in finding three willing souls. It is really rather

## Around the Divisions—continued

a pity that this should be so, and unless a lot more interest can be guaranteed the Management Committee should think more than twice before permitting this division to continue.

Jim Green.

### Women's Division

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Cadwa	20	19	1	0	172	28	38
Rafters	20	16	4	0	148	52	32
Bohs.	17	14	2	1	132	38	29
Linnet	19	12	5	2	117	73	26
Crawfords	20	12	8	0	118	82	24
Cadwa A	19	11	7	1	108	82	23
L'pool CC	20	10	7	3	93	107	23
Bath St.	19	7	11	1	99	91	15
Anfield	21	6	13	2	87	123	14
Rafters A	19	6	13	0	61	129	12
Btl. Nalgo	18	1	17	0	24	156	2
Coll. Tech.	20	0	20	0	3	197	0

**S**O FOR another year, Bohemians and Rafters met in the final of the Bartholomew Cup, the former repeating their success of the last two seasons by winning by 7-3. A full report on this match will appear in the next issue of the "Digest".

The semi-final between Rafters and Crawfords was most entertaining and very exciting, even though Crawfords lost 3-7. They put up a tremendous fight, many of the sets going to 3. Mable Francis was their outstanding player, beating both Jean Reynolds (2 straight) and Myra Lovelady (in 3). Then she won her doubles, partnered by Muriel Cox, who has now retired for the remainder of the season, but who turned out in this match. They beat Pinky Rumjahn and Bluey Casselman (3 games) in what was probably the best doubles I have seen this year. There were a lot of fine rallies and though Muriel and Bluey were handicapped it did not detract from their play in any way. In fact they both played better than I have ever seen them play before, especially Muriel. Bluey, also being in the same position as Muriel, defended very well, coming in with her attack at just the right moment. These two had to face each other in the singles, and it was a most energetic set, full of good table tennis. Bluey came out the winner, both players

apparently enjoying themselves very much. Muriel also had to play Pinky, and I considered this to be the best game of the night. Pinky really struck form and was hitting like a bomb, and in turn Muriel got some beauties, both forehand and backhand. It sent to three, with Pinky just barely scraping home on a deuce. Both players must have been pleased with their efforts, and Muriel must be reluctant to lay aside her bat, though we all hope that next season will see her back as keen as ever.

Joyce and Barbara Horsley have both improved considerably, and though neither managed to win, showed that they are capable of giving anyone a run for their money, if they would just steady down a little. Especially Barbara, who is inclined to be a little wild with her backhand, but when it does come off it is a real winner. Joyce told me that she thinks that the improvement in her game is due to playing in the mixed divisions as well as the ladies. Most of the ladies who do this will probably agree with her.

The other semi-final between Bohemians and Cadwa resulted in another 7-3 win, this time by Bohs. Cadwa hoped to repeat their win of three weeks earlier, but Bohs. were determined to get revenge, and this they did in no uncertain manner. I must hand it to Audrey Gee. In every Cup event I have ever seen her play, she has been inspired, and this time was no exception. She got away to a fine start against myself. She was leading me all through the first game, and I only managed to struggle home 21-18. In the second either I got my second wind or Audrey got a little nervous, for I ran out fairly comfortably. Nevertheless, she played like a champion and beat Ivy Crafter in straight games. Ivy never got into her game at all. I do not think she had previously lost to Audrey.

Judy Crafter was Cadwa's mainstay. She played an inspired game and it was a pity that we could not give her more support. She repeated her previous performance by beating both Moya and Muriel, both of whom were playing well. It was no fluke on Judy's part. She won fairly and

## Around the Divisions—continued

squarely in two exciting sets, made even more so by reason of all three players being attackers, and there was a deal of counter hitting throughout, which is always exciting.

Has Judy now got the measure of these players, or is it a psychological effect which she has on them? Perhaps it is youth which is her greatest advantage.

Joyce Randall also played better than she has done for some time and accounted for both Ivy and Pauline Lawrenson. Joyce is very quick on her feet and moves round the table well. She gets a little excited, which tends to break her concentration, but nevertheless, in this match she meant business and both her attack and defence were very sound. If Joyce could keep this up she would do much better in the Closed than she usually does. Moya, though she had lost to Judy, was not put off her game in any way and soon put paid to me in two straight. I just did not see which way they were going. She hit like a bomb. On the night the best side won. Congratulations to both Bohs. and Rafterns.

The Cricket Club certainly hit the headlines with a 6-4 win over Rafterns.

This was certainly one for the book. Barbara Topping must have played at the top of her form to beat both Jean Reynolds and Myra Lovelady. She has undoubtedly improved this season and I can see her doing well in the Closed. Gloria Gresley was brought in to replace Elizabeth Loughrey who was in hospital, but she lost both her sets, to Maureen King and Pat Brown. The Cricket Club must be feeling very pleased with themselves.

As the League Table stands at the moment, Cadwa are now on top, with two matches in hand over Rafterns (2nd), Bohemians lying 3rd and Linnets 4th, but these positions may be altered before these words get into your hands, so close do the sides lie. It is improbable that anyone will overtake Cadwa however. Technical Students are still without a point, but turn up every week, and we all hope, enjoy themselves. Bohemians have seen fit to drop their "A" team, and Bootle Nalgo appear to have lost interest. I hope that they will fulfil the remainder of their fixtures, and that next season sees them in a higher position.

Eileen Mansell.

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## A New Look for the League

By J. McKIM.

**T**HE Committee, in giving a great of thought during the season to the possibility of a re-organisation of the League, has a med at a scheme wh ch would, amongst other things, fulfil the following conditions :—

(a) Promote more interest, particularly in the lower Divisions ;

(b) Make it possible for a new team joining the League to reach the top quickly, if they were good enough ;

(c) Maintain interest throughout the season ;

(d) Be fluid enough to permit of alteration from year to year to accommodate the differing number of teams.

A Rule amendment will be placed before the A.G.M. which, if passed, will enable the Committee to put into operation a scheme which we believe meets the above requirements.

Briefly, the suggestion is that there be one First Division, two Second Divisions, and four Third Divisions.

The Second Divisions would be called 2a and 2b, and the Third Divisions 3a, 3b, 3c and 3d.

Promotion and relegation would be as follows : Four down from Div. 1, two up from each Div. 2, four down from each Second Division with two up from each Third Division.

If the number of entries made it necessary for us to form a different number of Third Divisions, two would be promoted from each, and a corresponding number of teams relegated.

The Third Divisions would not be Regional in any way but, as far as possible, made up of equal strength teams assessed on the basis of this season's final League Tables.

To implement Item (a) of the conditions listed above it is proposed to re-introduce three competitions as follows :—

1. " Restricted Men's Singles " in the Closed Championships available only to Third Division players.

2. The Macclesfield Medals Competition. This would comprise teams of players representing each of the Third Divisions who would compete

on a League basis for a Challenge Cup to be presented to the winning section of the Third Division.

3. The Forrest Cup Competition. Restricted to the Champion teams of each section of the Third Division who would compete for the Forrest Cup on a knock-out basis.

In so far as Item (b) on the preceding page is concerned—the Committee feel that this is met satisfactorily in that under the new set-up a new member of the League can attain Division 1 status in two years.

Item (c)—that of maintaining interest—will be fulfilled by virtue of the fact that most Clubs will be involved in struggles either to gain promotion or avoid relegation.

The Rule amendment is a very simple one and will enable the Committee to vary the number of Third (or for that matter—Second) Divisions, as circumstances demand. This covers Item (d) of our requirements.

The existing Cup competitions will remain, the Rumjahn Cup being confined to Div. 2 teams and the Hyde Cup to Div. 3 teams.

The Committee has also considered the advisability of altering the number of teams in each Division, for, since the number of teams in a Division was increased to 14 some few years ago, the season has been very crowded with little time to spare for re-arranged matches or Cup ties and replays, with the position next season even more acute owing to the exceptionally early Easter in 1964.

It has, in the past, been normal practice to try and end the fixtures before Easter to avoid clashing with Tennis and Cricket. Unless the number of teams in each Division is reduced below 14 it will be necessary to extend the 1963-64 season until at least three weeks after Easter in order to complete the League programme and possibly even four weeks if we are to keep one week free for the Merseyside Open Championships and the First Round Cup ties.

An earlier start to the season is not feasible. It is a tight enough

schedule to have the fixtures and handbooks ready for the middle of September and even then many people are either still on holiday or playing Tennis and Cricket.

If you accept our proposals for the re-organisation of the League this would be the most convenient year to make the change to say 12 teams a Division, when only two teams (the Third and Fourth from the bottom of the First Division) who would not normally be relegated, would in fact have to go down.

The Committee intend to put this matter before the A.G.M., not as a Rule change or a resolution, but simply to put the facts before you and ask for your views so that we may, when we have to take a decision, act in accordance with the wishes of the majority of members, but I must stress that a decision one way or the other will have to be made this year, whatever feelings are expressed, and irrespective of whether the League set-up is altered or not.

These two matters are of utmost importance to all registered members

and I would urge you not only to give them your careful consideration but to make sure that your Representative at the A.G.M. is fully aware of your feeling so that the decisions reached at that meeting will truly represent the views of the majority of the League members.

The only other Rule amendment we are putting forward is to match Regulation 12 which concerns the re-arrangement of postponed matches and the purpose of the amendment is to make it clear that it is the home team which fixes the revised date (which is not clear in the present regulation) and also to increase the notice required for such a re-arrangement from three days to 7 days—an increase which we feel desirable for all concerned.

The proposals we are putting before you are the result of much careful consideration and will, if passed, bring back some of the lost interest in the Liverpool League. They will benefit all sections of the League—not just the top or the bottom, and we feel they are at least worth a trial.

## The Challenge of Sandwich

By HARRY VENNER.

**S**ANDWICH, as we know it, as applicable to our present day game, presents a challenge to the players. We must now accept the fact that a compromise has been made between those who wanted "sponge" banned and those who were against such a ban.

This presents a challenge to players in as much that these bats bring a lot more spin into the game, making it far more complex, which makes it essential to players, particularly the younger and aspiring players who are fitter both physically and mentally.

Although we use a lot of "flat" or "still" bat techniques the basic foundation of the game is in the spinning strokes. We use these to achieve extra speed in attack—exaggerate them to produce the "loop" technique—the bane of defensive and chiselling exponents. We also have to remember, and this is vastly important, we use spins as counteracting and controlling agents

against the spin imparted by our opponents.

Whilst "sandwich" in itself has not completely eliminated chiselling it has certainly gone a long way towards that end and this must be a strong point in its favour.

Counter-hitting, as a means of both attack and defence, has come much more into the picture, thus encouraging more spectacular and ambitious playing.

We should remember that the spectators' side of things, especially from the financial point of view, is extremely important.

This article is not intended to be the full picture of the use of "sandwich", nor is it intended to decry the supporters of the "pimpled" bat, but to those players who can look back on memories of wonderful Table Tennis from such as Bergman, Barna, Leach, etc., and who are still playing today DON'T think in terms of "You can't teach an old dog new tricks".



Give "sandwich" an extended try and I am sure that then, even though you might revert to the "pimpled" (or not) you will at all events see the problem in such a prospective.

One word of advice. If you buy a

"sandwich" bat, buy a top grade one—it will repay you in the long run.

To my friends in Liverpool my good wishes and I look forward to meeting some of you in the near future.

## Sad ending of a fine Record

**T**HIS year's Readman Cup final was the occasion on which Ted Mandaluff, of Liverpool YMCA, saw the ending of a record of which he has been (justly) proud.

For 14 seasons, Ted has been playing in the League, all but two of them have been spent at Liverpool YMCA—the two exceptions being at Cadwa. During this period he can truthfully claim never to have missed a single match, having turned out with colds and other ailments rather than let his team down. For the first time, on the night of the Readman Cup final, a reserve had to take his place, bronchitis having made it quite impossible for him to play.

That this first absence should have coincided with the Cup final was doubly unfortunate, for this was the first occasion on which a team of which he has been a member has reached that stage of the Readman, so that not only did he lose his record, but also the chance of playing in the final. We can only express the sincere hope that he will again have a similar chance in the future.

It is encouraging, in these days of walkovers, players not arriving and conceding sets, etc., to find that there are still some good club men in the League. There are many young players who can profit by an example such as this.

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## The Problem Solved!

Don Cameron, some time ago,  
In language pure and simple,  
Tried hard to set our hearts aglow  
In favour of the "pimple".  
Our Treasurer, with bat in hand,  
Confronted with a "Stiga"  
Though battling hard to  
make a stand,  
Is, deep within, not eager.

For from experience he knows  
(Unfortunate, but true)  
The ball will whistle past his nose  
And points will vanish too.  
For "sandwich" doth produce  
great speed  
And "pimples" cannot cope.  
To counteract the "loop"  
you need  
A great deal more than hope!

So "pushers" like the noble Don  
'Gainst sandwich quake inside  
As little lads with modern bats  
Belt forehands fast and wide.  
He strains to reach them, but alas,  
His feet don't move too fast—  
And bat he waggles vainly as  
The ball goes whizzing past.

Ted Mandaluff, with bat of wood,  
The "sandwich" does not fear.  
Nor 'gainst him "pimples" do  
much good.

Don! There's a moral here!!  
It's doubtful if a wooden bat  
Will help you show, or tell 'em  
But in your need, why don't you try  
A vintage bat of VELLUM?

(Anonymous).

Sing to the tune of TWTWTW.

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### COVER COMPETITION

We asked for it — we've got it!!  
You remember how, in the last issue,  
we asked for budding artists to send  
us suggestions for a design of a new  
cover for the "Digest". Well,  
you've met our request manfully.  
"Monty" informs us that several  
of the entries are of very good  
quality and that at least one stands  
a very good chance of being adopted.  
If you think you can design a  
front cover for the "Digest" and  
haven't yet submitted your idea—  
do so right away.

There will be a full report in the  
next issue of this magazine.

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