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**TABLE
TENNIS
DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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TABLE DIGEST TENNIS

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

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Editor : Eric Caird

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

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EDITORIAL

THE "new look" League proposals contained in our last issue seem to have aroused a considerable amount of interest, as indeed they ought when it is borne in mind that whichever scheme is carried at the Annual General Meeting settles the future of all members of the League for at least the next twelve months.

Four Choices appear to be open to the Clubs, namely :—
a) The scheme put forward by the Management Committee.
b) The proposal from the Liverpool Y.M.C.A.
c) The variation submitted by "Dunbar" in the *Liverpool Echo*.
d) The rejection of all three and to leave things as they are.

We, for our part, have no wish to influence members one way or another—we all we ask is that the A.G.M. on Monday, 27th May, 1963, is fully attended, that the arguments put forward are listened to objectively and given full consideration, culminating in a vote which will lead to a state of affairs eminently satisfactory to the majority of registered players.

AND NOW GOODBYE

It is with more than a tinge of regret that this concluding paragraph is written, for not only does it mark the end of yet another issue of the "Digest" but also brings to a close my occupancy of the Editorial Chair.

It has been a lot of fun editing the "Digest", but all good things must come to an end sooner or later, and editing the "Digest" is no exception.

It would be base ingratitude on my part if I didn't pay tribute to two members of the Editorial Board who have supported me so valiantly since I took over from Jack Pattison. Without the efforts of Jimmy Green and "Monty" over the past years it is doubtful if the "Digest" would have survived, and I trust that this small acknowledgment of their services will compensate for the many hours of work which they have put in, in the service of this magazine. My personal thanks to you, Jim and to "Monty".

Thanks are also due to our Special Correspondents who have contributed notes on the various Divisions over such a long period and, indeed, to all who have contributed, in one way or another.

By its constitution, the "Digest" can never be a medium for "hot news" or "Scoops", as known to the popular Press but it can, and should, be an interesting medium for the expression of facts, topics and opinion. Long may

ALBERT MONTGOMERY

(better known to all as " Monty ")

THROUGH the 13 years' life of the " Digest " we have had articles on individuals under differing headings, and many people have been the subject of this distinction. Of all members of this League, there are many who feel that nobody has earned this " spotlight " more than has " Monty " whose career started away back with Central YMCA in 1931, and who has since that time given services both to the League and his Clubs without regard to his other activities.

It has been the privilege of the writer to have known him for some 30 years, and as such, feels competent to give some account of the debt owed to him by everyone playing today.

Although never one of the greatest players, in the immediate post-war period he played on several occasions in Liverpool teams. He never got a Liverpool badge because at that time they were not presented as they are today, but his record was not undistinguished in this sphere. He was, in addition, one of the original enthusiasts to form the playing strength of Rafters when newly founded, and for some years was a regular member of one or other of their two 1st division sides.

It is, however, rather in an administrative capacity that he has given best services to our League. As a member of the Committee for 18 successive years, he has done tasks which, though important, were seldom seen—lifting tables from lorries for tournaments—supplying the canteen at the " Closed " with goods on sale-or-return terms to swell the profits — always around at the " Open " to help prepare (and some years ago acting as Referee)—using his car for carting goods around to save the League funds, and many-similar back-room chores. Culminating, this year, in approaching personal acquaintances to donate prizes for our tournament. You will see from Don Cameron's article on another page, that this year we made

a profit on the " Closed "—mainly because we had so few prizes to buy, and that the Raffle prizes made available by his labour made such a large amount. Were it not for his efforts, we would again have sustained a loss.

For the whole of its life the " Digest " has included " Monty " on the Editorial Board, and whenever his business allows, he is there to help wrap and stamp them for the post—he contacted our present Printer to obtain a lower cost of printing, again to cut costs.

There are so many such jobs that he has undertaken over the past 18 years that it would take too much space to enumerate them, but the few instances given amply demonstrate that, though unseen and unknown to the majority, he has given services, time and trouble, which earn him the right to recognition. He has been more than content to work behind the scenes, while others performed the more glamorous jobs, but such people are few and far between, and for once, this small tribute to his untiring labours over the years must be paid, for undoubtedly it has been more than well-earned.

During our long association I have never had a row with " Monty ". We've had many arguments, some more heated than others—we've tried to outwit each other when we have been opposing captains of teams but we have never had an actual honest-to-goodness row. But after he has had this issue of the " Digest " I shall do well to avoid him until he has calmed down, for I know that he will be annoyed at being dragged into the limelight, and I fear the worst.

But, even at the expense of a rough and tumble, this article is long overdue, and in all sincerity I can only say a heartfelt " thank you " on behalf of the League to Albert Montgomery, who is, and has been, for many years worth his (considerable) weight in gold as a **worker**.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

In the recent April issue, two suggestions were made for the reduction of teams in divisions, one by Mr. Butterworth (L'pool YMCA), the other by the Management Committee.

Many years ago, when a small boy, I was taught that to go into another team's dressing-room and to clean out the cash from their pockets was dishonest. It was instilled into me also that it was not considered "the thing" to take a nice sharp knife and neatly (but efficiently) slice another's throat from ear to ear. Yet, both of the two suggestions submitted above are equally dishonest as they violate every normal rule of morality.

Teams have been allowed—or rather encouraged—to play for the whole of the season under the impression that (according to the rules of the League) no more than two teams were to be relegated from any division, and that the two top sides of all divisions other than the 1st, would be promoted. AFTER WHICH, when teams have been fighting either to retain their status or to gain promotion, they are to be told "GET OUT—you are not wanted". Whichever way you look at this, anyone who applies a normal code of decency to affairs MUST arrive at the conclusion that it is completely and entirely dishonest. It is no more dishonest to steal money from your team-mates pockets than to deliberately rob players of the status EARNED by their own endeavours. It is no less honest to cut one throat than to cut several. John McKim goes to some pains to point out that only two teams which ARE NOT DUE FOR RELEGATION would nevertheless be efficiently dropped to a lower division—but, ten people who have battled like mad to stay in the 1st division are to be quietly and efficiently disposed of by the application of that nice sharp knife! They are to be robbed of the fruits of their own endeavours—a further season in that sphere. All because Easter comes earlier, though what

on earth Easter has got to do with it is completely beyond me. Apparently should Easter come a couple of weeks earlier at some future date, the knife would again be sharpened, and two more teams quietly done away with! Nice thought.

Surely, if it desirable that the number of teams per division be dropped from 14 to 12, it would be perfectly simple to accept a resolution from the floor to that effect, and to have it (if passed) to take effect from the end of NEXT season—warning that the number of teams to be relegated would thus be increased—and having told clubs what to expect not a single soul could have any objection at the season's end. I must be old-fashioned or a "square" but to me this is such a simple manner in which to deal with this problem, and it has the merit of being honest. Surely it is better to wait for 12 months than to deliberately set out to cause a deal of ill-feeling by acting in as dishonest a manner as can be thought up, and relegating two teams who are not due for that distinction UNDER THE RULES BY THE TERMS OF WHICH THE SEASON HAS BEEN PLAYED. Honesty does pay sometimes, even if only in goodwill.

Finally, did anyone happen to read in a recent edition of the "Football Echo" that instead of shortening the season, our colleagues of the Business Houses League have decided to EXTEND their season to the middle of May because the players want more table tennis!! May be they have never heard of Easter or of long, sharp knives.

Yours, etc.,

JAMES R. GREEN

(Linnets & Aigburth T.T.C.).

P.S. The above views are entirely personal to Mr. Green and in no way reflect the opinion of the Management Committee or of this magazine.

Cup Final Reports

"READMAN" CUP

Anfield 3 - Liverpool YMCA 7

This match was considered a foregone conclusion as few teams can stand up to the might of the YMCA these days, and Anfield, although a useful middle of the table team, were expected to make but token resistance.

The YM were forced to bring in Jimmy Clewett as a last minute substitute for Mandaluff, but this did not cause concern or raise any doubts. Let us not belittle Anfield. They fought hard and well and produced in Freddie Cuff a double winner good enough to grace the winner's team.

Butterworth, the YMCA Captain, was so sure of his position he found it unnecessary to return to the game after the interval, apart from collecting the Cup. Not the best of manners, but he certainly has at his disposal a grand team which looks capable of cornering honours for many years to come.

EDDIE CAMERON.

"RUMJAHN" CUP

Wavertree Labour 8 - Anfield "A" 2

Once again a 3rd division side opposed a 4th division team in the final. Wavertree Labour were firm favourites to regain the Cup which they last won two years ago, but there were surprises in store when they met Anfield "A" at Crawfords.

At first it seemed that the match was to be a mere formality for the

Labour Club, as have been their League matches. T. Bunner (Anfield) could not pierce the steady defence of N. Chaloner and lost 18-21, 15-21. P. Hurworth then overcame J. Brannigan, and W. Clayton put Labour three up by crushing A. Greensmith, and we then saw the best game of the evening between F. Farquaharson and I. Stirzaker (Anfield)—both players producing fine attacking shots, but the determined Stirzaker overcame his opponent 19-21, 21-14, 21-12. E. Moran put Labour 4-1 in the lead at the interval beating M. Holland 10 and 19.

A. Greensmith (Anfield) nearly produced another shock against N. Chaloner, winning the first game 21-15, and after leading in the second only just lost 19-21, after which the effort and strain appeared to affect the Anfield player more than his opponent and Chaloner coasted home in the 3rd 21-8. Another exciting battle followed when Brannigan took on E. Moran with Brannigan's attack eventually bringing him victory, 16-21, 21-15, 21-18.

With the score 5-2 in favour of the Labour team, Peter Hurworth clinched the matter in no uncertain manner 21-5, 21-16, and so the destination of the Cup was decided. In the two remaining events Farquaharson beat Bunner 12 and 17, and Clayton disposed of Holland 17 and 11, so the final result stood 8-2 in favour of Wavertree Labour.

Mr. Peter Runjahn presented the Cup, plaques and medals to the players, and a most entertaining evening of table tennis was complete.

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" BARTHOLOMEW " CUP

Bohemians 8 - Rafter's 2

Although the final score was 8-2 for Bohemians, who once again were the winners of this trophy, it was by no means as easy as it appears. Moya Jones, despite winning her two sets against Pinky Rumjahn and Elizabeth Loughrey, seemed very nervous, and was extended to three games against her two opponents. Muriel Willcox on the other hand had little difficulty in overcoming Rafter's Myra Lovelady and Pinky. With her long reach and consistent forehand and backhand attack, hit on the half-volley, she is not an easy player to beat, and she won both sets fairly comfortably in two straight.

Joyce Randall v. Myra Lovelady was easily the most thrilling battle of the evening, and certainly the best exhibition of table tennis. Both played at the top of their form, and although Joyce eventually won 21-17 in the third, it was one of those sets in which the loser earned as much praise as the winner. Against Jean Reynolds, Joyce also played a blinder, and won in two straight. Jean had a lot of trouble when facing

Audrey Gee, Bohs' very able skipper, who gave Jean quite a fright before experience came to Jean's aid in the 3rd, when she ran out the winner at 21-15, and when Audrey met Elizabeth Loughrey, after the issue had been settled in Bohs' favour, both players really let themselves go, and between them they played some fantastic shots which probably neither could do again however hard they tried. Both fell down (the floor being a bit slippery) and at one point Audrey's bat (or was it Elizabeth's) went careering across the room. But it was the most entertaining set of a most interesting match, which went to Elizabeth in the 3rd after a really hilarious set-to.

Bohemians won both doubles, and considering that this was a Cup final when nerves are tensed up all round it was a truly well worth watching match. I am sure that the spectators would vote this anything but a wasted evening.

" HYDE " CUP

W'tree Lab. 'B' 8 - Crawfords 'B' 2

The Editor regrets that the report on the Final of the "Hyde" Cup had not been received at the time of going to Press.

Around the Divisions

(By our Special Correspondents)

Division I

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
L'pool YM	25	25	0	0	212	38	50
Bohs.	25	19	5	1	179	71	39
Rafter's	25	17	5	3	171	79	37
Lpl. YM A	25	17	6	2	160	90	36
Bootle YM	25	14	8	3	141	109	31
Anfield	25	13	9	3	129	121	29
Balfour	25	12	9	4	132	118	28
Rafter's A	25	7	14	4	102	148	18
Oakhill	18	13	3	2	72	55	16
Wat. Dock	25	5	16	4	88	162	14
Bohs. A	25	6	17	2	77	173	14
Linnets	25	3	18	4	78	172	10
Victoria Pk	25	2	20	3	71	179	7
Bils YM A	25	1	19	5	70	180	7

LIVER POOL YMCA have walked away with the division and are most worthy champions, as has been expected from the outset of the

season. It is a very long time since any side played through the entire season undefeated, and with the strength at their disposal, it seems more than likely that they will not suffer defeat for some time to come. In their "A" team they have players who can step into the senior side without weakening their chances, and in offering congratulations to the club, one must include the five second-teamers whose League position shows them to be one of the strongest teams in the League.

Injury to Bill Tobin and the absence for the latter half of the season of Arthur Taylor undoubtedly robbed Rafter's of second place which goes to Bohemians by two points, which will give them a great deal of satisfaction, being the highest level they have ever reached.

Around the Divisions

The other end of the table—with disappointment for Bootle YMCA "A" and Victoria Park as the relegation pair—caused far more interest generally, for until the last four or five weeks several teams were involved in the battle for safety. Bootle's stay has been short, they having gained 1st division status only this season, but Victoria Park have had a bad time generally, mainly due to the loss of several key players. Linnets pulled clear thanks to the tremendous efforts of Frank Thomas and Dennis Underhill, and it was really the results of these two, with occasional wins from the other members of the side which pulled them away from the bottom spot which they held for such a long period at the start.

Oakhill's position does not really demonstrate the potential of their team for with only one-half of matches to play, all away, they had little chance of a high position, but they must at least feel satisfied that they will be near the top next time.

The "grapevine" is buzzing with speculations of changes of club by so many players this year that any forecast of next season's teams would be ridiculous, but if true, several of this season's "strong" teams will be battling against relegation next. One club, I know, has been "touting" all season, and I can only express the hope that in this particular case their efforts are completely unrewarded, for if one-half of the players approached joined up, there would be little interest in the League at all. I have no doubt that many others know the club to which I refer but since no concrete proof can be offered it is no earthly use reporting them to the Committee! I only wish that such cases could be proved. The air would be a lot less odourous.

However, taken as a whole, the season has not been a bad one, though, as always, we hope for an even better one next session.

JIM GREEN.

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Cadwa	22	22	0	0	192	28	44
Lucem	22	17	3	3	161	59	37
Fairlawn	22	16	4	2	140	80	34
Bath St.	22	11	6	5	116	104	27
RAFA	22	10	9	3	114	106	23
Beauchair	22	9	9	4	113	107	22
University	22	9	10	3	98	122	21
LPAS	22	8	10	4	100	120	20
Wat. Park	22	7	13	2	92	128	16
Rafters B	22	5	15	2	85	135	12
Vic. Pk. A	22	3	18	1	59	161	7
Vic. Pk. B	22	0	21	1	50	170	1

CONGRATULATIONS must go first of all to the Cadwa team of H. Wilcock, G. Birch, R. Eden, W. P. Crafter and M. Travis for winning the 2nd Division so decisively, without giving away a single League point. They will find 1st division opponents more difficult to beat, but I have no doubt that they will be able to hold their own in the top flight. Special mention should be made of Gordon Birch, who remained unbeaten in League matches, and only four players in the whole division managed to take him to three games. A fine record.

Runners-up, Lucem, deserve congratulations also for winning second place after a bitter struggle. Their team of A. Heyes, J. Rimmer, K. Davies, K. Jackson and Mrs. G. Rimmer should be strong enough to maintain 1st division status and I wish them every success. Throughout the season Lucem have been contesting second place with my own team Fairlawn and though I must feel slightly disappointed at the final placings I must agree that the two sides which finished at the top of the table are, without doubt the two strongest in the division. At the start of the season the Fairlawn team of E. Mooney, B. Leeson, J. Leeson, P. Whalley and B. Varter thought that they would do well merely to hold their own in division two and occupy a middle-of-the-table position. We little thought that we would be fighting for a promotion place.

Bath Street, as I expected, finished 4th, but I think they could have

Around the Divisions—continued

finished higher. Their side will no doubt be determined to see to it next year.

Before I close, may I sympathise with the two Victoria Park teams for having to bear the weight of all the other sides. I was delighted to see that Vic. Park "B" did in fact win ONE league point away from home, at the expense of (wait for it!) Vic. Park "A". The vital game in the match was Don Cameron's narrow win over Tony Cohen. Watch for Don's improved performances next season—he's got a brand new SPONGE BAT!!

BRIAN LEFSON.

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Lpl. C.C.	21	18	1	2	159	51	38
Lpl. YM B	21	18	2	1	151	59	37
Linacre	21	14	5	2	147	63	30
Eng. Elec.	21	10	5	6	117	93	26
Anfield A	21	10	8	3	116	94	23
Bohs. B	21	9	10	2	101	109	20
Bath St. A	21	7	10	4	101	109	18
Linnets A	21	5	11	5	89	121	15
Sefton	21	5	12	4	85	125	14
LPAS A	21	6	13	2	71	139	14
Oakhill A	15	4	10	1	40	94	7
Bole YM B	21	0	21	0	31	179	0

LIVERPOOL Cricket Club, as expected in most quarters, finished champions, with Liverpool YM "B" still breathing down their necks, one solitary point behind, whilst at the tail end, Oakhill "A" and Bootle YM "B" have ended in the unenviable hot seats. Thus, in one sentence one can summarise the entire season, but it is not anything like as simple as that. For the best part of the season the two top sides were under pressure from Linacre and English Electric, and even when these had left the top pair to fight it out, we ended with the Cricket Club to play Anfield—the championship depending entirely on the result, with Anfield such an unpredictable team that any accurate forecast as to the winners would not be the best selection as a banker on the treble chance. However, the C.C. made it all right, with much relief to themselves and some regret from Cyril Bradshaw's team.

Four teams suffered badly from providing reserves for higher teams, Bath St., Bohs, Linnets and L.P.A.S. all at times played much under strength while their 3rd division players filled in in other teams. But the only real regret is that Oakhill's penalty has resulted in their occupying a relegation spot. This might have been the case even with a full programme, but no-one in this division is happy under the present circumstances, and from every player concerned I offer the most sincere hope that next season will bring them back to this sphere.

That promising youngster Freddie Bamford heads our list of "personal records" with 92.87—, with Harry Reeve coming second less than 1—behind. Both were extremely fine efforts but the accolade must really go to English Electric's Fred Pheysey who for the third season in succession occupied one of the top three places—a great record of consistency.

It has been an enjoyable season, played for the most part in a most sporting spirit, and as a loyal member of the Cricket Club I should thank that team who might have claimed a 10-0 walk-over from our team owing to a mistake re match night, but who preferred to re-arrange the match (with official permission) later, and after quite a struggle lost 3-7. They did not want to upset the promotion race. More of this attitude would materially help throughout the League in place of some of the strict observation of rules seen at odd times. We'll see you next season.

LEN DAVIES.

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Wav. Lab.	17	17	0	0	168	2	34
Cadwa A	17	14	3	0	129	41	28
L'pool O.O.	17	9	5	3	86	84	21
Fairlaw A	17	7	5	5	86	84	19
Wat. Dk. A	17	6	7	4	77	93	16
Bath St. B	17	7	8	2	72	98	16
Cadwa B	17	0	8	3	78	92	15
Wat. Pk. A	17	3	12	2	54	110	8
Oaxaul B	11	2	8	1	17	69	4
Linnets B	17	0	16	1	30	140	1

As the final positions show, there were no sensations in the latter

Around the Divisions (continued)

part of the season. Wavertree Lab. were worthy champions with their impressive 100% record and will give a very good account of themselves in the higher divisions. Cadwa "A" made sure of the runners-up position with a 9-1 win over Post Office, for whom Ron Fowler was the only winner. L. French of Fairlawn "A" finished the season in grand style with two good wins over D. Harper and K. Westhead although his team lost to Cadwa "A". Fairlawn took fourth position as anticipated.

Of the teams at the lower end of the table, Linnets "B" showed improvement and drew at Waterloo Park. Linnets two juniors, G. Adams and S. White continued to put in useful performances. Oakhill "B" although rather erratic did gain a victory over the Linnets side.

In the final month of the season there were fewer cancelled matches and instances of playing short, due no doubt to better weather conditions. Waterloo Park "A" failed to appear at Waterloo Dock, who in turn could not play at Wavertree Labour. Linnets "B" also conceded a 10-0 walk-over to the Labour team owing to congestion of fixtures due to cup-ties and cancelled matches during the bad spell. Bootle YM "C" after sterling efforts despite frequent defeats were finally withdrawn.

Generally this has been a rather disappointing season in view of the high standard of play set by the leaders. Possibly the dominance of the leading three teams has made the division somewhat unbalanced, and, as mentioned in an earlier edition, the withdrawal of teams, both before the start of the season and since, has made for unpleasant breaks which have lessened interest, especially among the more experienced players. However, all players will wish to offer their congratulations and best wishes for the future to the winners and runners-up, and to encourage the younger players of the lower teams to maintain their interest and enthusiasm. Unless some of the teams in the division are strengthened before next season it would seem likely that the

will be strongly fancied for further promotion at the end of next season. Possibly revision of the League set-up may amend this position. Best wishes to all members of the division for the summer break.

LES HARPER.

Division > 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Wav. Lab. A	22	21	0	1	200	20	43
Crawfords	22	19	1	2	174	46	40
Crawfords A	22	15	6	1	143	77	31
Lpl. CC A	22	11	5	6	124	96	28
St. Eds OB	22	12	7	3	128	92	27
Lpl YM C	22	11	7	4	117	103	26
Anfield B	22	12	9	1	109	113	25
Fairlawn B	22	7	15	0	77	M3	14
Beauclair A	22	4	15	3	72	148	11
Dom. Miss.	22	3	17	2	69	151	8
Rafters C	22	2	17	3	63	157	7
Btl. Nalgo	22	1	19	2	44	176	4

MUMBLING "The curfew tolls the knell, etc." and buttoning my bat cover for the last time, I laid my bat to rest at the back of the wardrobe for a well-earned rest. Another season over, and by the time you read these notes, table tennis will have faded into the sphere of recollections as you look forward to the "lighter nights" activities such as cricket, tennis and birdwatching! However, let me jog your memories with some of the highlights of our division.

From the outset it seemed certain that Wavertree Labour and Crawfords would fill the first two places, and this prophecy they have adequately fulfilled. The Labour side proved much too strong for the rest of the division, only dropping one point in a hard-fought away drawn at Crawfords, but in the return they demonstrated just which was the better team by a 10-0 eclipse. Their individual strength is amply shown by the names of Messrs. Owens, Byrne and Chambers in the three top spots in the divisional averages.

One of the major surprises was the point dropped by Crawfords to the Cricket Club "A". True Griffiths and Sanders were included in the Cricket side, but Max had an off night, so this really only meant 2 sets earned by the pair. Ray Tyler won both his sets, and Bob Dean,

Around the Divisions (continued)

showing remarkable patience wore down Ken Gabler. The excitement was in the last set, when Phil Cox clinched the draw by beating myself 22-24, 21-13, 21-15.

At the other end of the table Rafter's "C" and Bootle Nalgo have had a lean time. In spite of which they (and particularly Rafter's) have played both hard and keenly. We wish Fred Winstanley and his merry men, and the lads from Bootle better fortunes next time.

I cannot omit the fact that occupying sixth place in our division's personal averages comes attractive Mrs. Barbara Topping. This vivacious and always smartly turned-out young lady has not only added glamour to the Cricket Club team but played a major role in establishing them in fourth place in the final analysis. She has earned her high record by hard, attacking table tennis, often winning by a wide margin.

Let me close by wishing all players of the 5th division a pleasant and recuperative summer . . . see you next season.

GEORGE GRIME

Division 6

	P	W	LD	F	A	Pts.
Wav. Lab B	22	20	0	2	182	38 42
Coll. of Tech	22	18	2	2	158	62 38
Eng. Elec. A	22	16	6	0	144	76 32
Stan. House	22	12	6	4	128	92 28
Anfield C	22	13	8	1	128	92 27
Lpl. CC B	22	11	8	3	114	106 25
Eng. Elec. B	22	9	9	4	116	104 22
LPAS B	22	6	13	3	99	121 15
University A	22	6	14	2	85	135 14
Bath St. C	22	4			75	145 11
Beauclair B	22	3	18	1	56	164 7
Linnets C	22	1	20	1	35	185 3

A GREAT performance by Waver-tree Labour "B" who completed the League and Cup double, thanks mainly to McEvoy with 41 wins from 42, Gilmour with 38 from 40, and Tolson 33 from 38.

Other League statistics, giving team, number of players called on, top scorer and games played: — College of Technology (9) Crawshaw 39, Crawshaw 44; Stanley House (9) B. Harding 31, B. Harding 44; Eng. Elec. "A" (16) Lambert 29, Lambert 44; Eng. Elec. "B" (13) Neary 27, Dorricott 44; Anfield (17)

Walmsley 25, Southall 40; Police (12) Catterson 25, Catterson 36; University (12) Lawson 22, Lawson 36; Cricket Club (12) Maddocks 20, Maddocks & Jones 34; Bath St. (14) Marsh 15, Marsh 42; Beauclair (9) Grieve 14, Harwood 42; Linnets (13) Foster 8, Ashcroft 32.

We have four 100% attendance records out of 151 players. Ron McEvoy lost his 100% playing record to Holland (Anfield) 21-23, 21-17, 21-17. Callaghan (E.E.C.) won one game v. Southall 29-27 and Neary (E.E.C.) beat Spencer (Coll. Tech.) 23-21, 20-22, 22-20 (how near to a draw CAN you get?). Best performance? You take your pick. Mine—Foster (Linnets) for his double win over Johnson and Southall (Anfield).

In the League Anfield finished on a high note beating E-E-C. "A" 6-4. A great game this. Johnson and Pennington each winning two for Anfield and Wright two for Electric (this lad appears to be a bright new

prospect). In the Bath St.—Linnets draw 14 year-old Peter Wass scored his first, well-earned win—the first of many? Foster and Marsh scored doubles.

To all the "tea-making, get-a-team-together, wash-the-cups, put-the-table-away" Captains—Thank you for keeping our game going. Seriously though, you're doing a grand job! Over the past few years Jack Catterson and Brian Harding must have earned top marks in coming prospects just like them.

JACK LAMBERT.

Division 7

	P	W	LD	F	A	Pts.
Colonsay	17	14	2	1	129	41 29
Crawfords B	17	13	1	3	123	47 29
St. Leonards	17	11	4	2	109	60 24
Lpl. CC C	17	11	5	1	118	52 23
Lpl. CC D	17	7	7	3	89	81 17
Cath. Met.	17	8	8	1	82	88 17
Lowlands	17	7	10	0	72	98 14
Eng. Elec. C	17	3	13	1	58	112 7
Oakhill C	13	1	10	2	11	148 0
Linnets D	17	0	17	0	11	148 0

COLONSAY won this division by sheer consistency, and were very thrilled to do so in what must have been the closest finish for years.

Around the Divisions—Continued

St. Leonard's actually won it for Colonsay by drawing away to Crawfords "B" in one of the final matches. Up to that point Crawfords had looked almost certain champions. Previously Colonsay had beaten Crawfords, but having made a bad start to the season by losing their first two matches, still trailed. In that match, Colonsay were without their No. 2, but even with a reserve included everything went right for them, and the result was 6-4. The heroes were J. B. Hodges, who hit top form and accounted for Mabel Francis in two straight, and won his other set, and Alan Guy, who also struck his peak form and won both events with Crawford's Peter Barton winning both. But it was a team win as evidenced by the two No. 5's, R. Evans (Colonsay) and Walter Eymond (Crawfords) who battled it out for 45 minutes before Evans, who had rather more luck, ran out the winner.

St. Leonard's finished a deserving 3rd and can boast a win and a draw from the two top sides, and 3 from 4 points from the fourth team, Liverpool C.C. "C". That match which made sure of their gaining third place was against the Cricket Club "C" when they won 6-4, the Cricket Club being without Eric Dorfman, who might have made quite a difference. Their six events were scored by A. Matthias, R. Spencer, and W. Smith each winning a double. Then in the drawn match v. Crawfords, Smith again scored twice, and Mabel Francis got a double for Crawford's from the No. 2 spot.

The two Cricket Club sides came in fourth and fifth, and with a little more fortune on their side, the "C" team might have fared better, for a number of their matches were lost 4-6.

Catholic Metro, after a good run in the middle of the season finished disappointingly. Two of their last three games were against the two top sides, who expected tough matches, but who were happy to win most convincingly. On the credit side, Catholic Metro beat St. Leonards in the last match of the season—completing a double over them, in a match which might have gone either way but which found fortune rather

on the side of the home team.

With two teams from this division reaching the semi-final of the Hyde Cup, and, indeed, Crawfords "B" reaching the final, it seems fair to say that this says something in favour of the proposed new structure of the League, allowing for promotion to a higher sphere with more rapidity.

NORMAN NELSON.

Division 8

	p	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Mossley Hill	26	24	1	1	206	54	49
Lussac	26	21	4	1	178	82	43
Wav. Lab. C	26	17	5	4	165	93	38
Orrell	26	13	8	5	145	113	31
Maghull Co.	26	11	9	6	130	130	28
Anfield D.	26	11	12	3	132	128	25
Coll. of Tec.	26	8	14	4	118	142	20
Lucem A	26	5	19	2	80	180	12
Lowlands A	26	3	21	2	67	193	8
Colonsay A	26	3	23	0	77	183	6

OU R congratulations to Mossley division. May they go from success to success after such an excellent start to their career. To the bottom teams, better luck next season. Congratulations to F. Brown (Maghull) and A. Mitchell (Colonsay) who, though playing in teams from lower positions, figure high in the averages, the former in fifth place (82.00—) and Mitchell 9th (75.00). Both were extremely good performances in view of the high quality of the opposition.

It has been said that the final placings of the division cannot be true ones with teams having played each four times—some being drawn for their extra two games against the lower placed side, and others having the misfortune to meet such as Mossley Hill of Lussac four times, but I feel sure that everyone will agree that it has been far better to play every week than to have two or three weeks blank. Perhaps some bright ideas might emerge at the League A.G.M., and it is in our own interests to attend that meeting.

Although the entries for the "Closed" tournament were down on last year, our division was well represented both by males and females; in which event I feel justified in airing my opinion that it must

Around the "Divisions—continued

be most disheartening for the Management Committee to go to so much trouble with the arrangements, and to give up so freely of their time every evening and all day Saturday for so poor a response. The finals were well worth seeing, especially the Men's Singles, but I would have preferred to find more spectators present.

I have tried to cover events in the division as fully as the limited material at my disposal allows. If I have not mentioned some event or left out a name which deserved a special mention, please accept my apologies, and I would like to end on a personal note to say that we of the Orrell Club thank each and every one of you for an interesting

LII, JENKINS.

3 A Side

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
L'pool YM	19	18	1	0	148	23	36
Wav. Lab.	19	15	4	0	129	42	30
Cadwa	19	15	4	0	126	45	30
Fairlawn	19	12	7	0	88	83	24
Btle. YM	19	8	11	0	74	97	16
Linnets	19	7	12	0	71	100	14
Balfour	19	7	12	0	54	117	14
Victoria Pk	19	5	14	0	62	109	10
Wat. Dock	19	5	14	0	55	116	10
Oakhill	13	7	6	0	31	56	8
Lowlands	13	2	17	0	49	122	4

LIVERPOOL YMCA added to their season's laurels by adding this division to the 1st and the Readman Cup, but as I write the second place is not decided, for the Cadwa-Wavertree Labour match is the only fixture not completed of the whole League programme. However, one will be second and the other third, after which statement there is so little to be said about this division that we might just as well stop there.

One commendation has been well earned by the 7th division side, Lowlands, who have honoured every fixture, well knowing that they were on to a hiding to nothing every time. When they entered for this three-a-side effort, they thought that there would be enough interest to have probably three divisions, with them-

have found themselves battling it against 1st, 2nd and 3rd division sides with as little hope of winning as they would have had against the Chinese international team. But week by week they have turned up, and, in my keeping of individual records, I have noted, with some pleasure, the improved results obtained in their 7th division matches by those players getting extra matches in this division. I hope that the experience gained by honouring commitments entered into will bring them much more success in the future.

For the rest, the majority of clubs have played if they felt like it—turned out any three bods willing to give up an evening, and apart from the YMCA, only Cadwa, Wavertree Labour and Fairlawn can be said to have turned out a strong side each week.

So, what was to have been an experiment, asked for by the majority of the clubs at the last A.G.M., has proved to be such a complete flop that second thoughts must be taken as to the advisability of having a second go next year.

Having said which, what is left, except to say thank goodness this abortive division has finished for the

year.

JIM GREEN.

Women's Division

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
	22	21	1	0	31	42	
Cadwa	22	19	1	0	189	2	43 39
Bohs	22	17	1	0	177		64
Rafters	22	13	5	0	156		34
Linnets	22	13	9	0	129	91	28
Crawfords	22	12	9	1	119	91	26
Cadwa A	22	9	12	1	114	101	25
Bath St.	22	8	11	3	117	106	19
L'pool CC	22	7	13	2	97	113	19
Anfield	22	6	16	0	66	123	16
Rafters A	22	2	20	0	34	154	12
Btle. Nalگو	22	0	22	0	3	186	4

CADWA have finished champions with Bohemians (last season's winners) as runners-up, and to both we offer congratulations on a battle which has lasted all season and which was not settled until the very late stages of the matches. Rafters and Linnets kept up the pressure on the two top sides, and when it is

Around the Divisions—continued

remembered that all four teams have figured at the head of the table at some part of the season, it demonstrates that Cadwa had to earn their championship the hard way.

It was unfortunate that Bohs were not at full strength in one or two key matches, but no complaint has been heard from that direction—they are willing to take the rough luck with the good. While both Rafterers and Linnets showed that with just that "little extra" their challenge might have been even stronger.

Crawfords and Liverpool Cricket Club showed up well in their first season among the stronger sides, and we can expect them to make their presence felt even more in succeeding years. Barbara Topping earned a place in the Liverpool "A" team, acquitting herself well, and she will not be the last player to earn recognition from these two keen clubs.

Bath Street were lucky to receive

but we are sure that they would have preferred to have played every match even had one or two of these six been lost or drawn. It is a most unsatisfactory sort of year when team after team don't turn up, and is very disheartening to their side.

Bootle Nalgo and College of Technology have nothad a good year as far as results go, and it is to be hoped that their lack of success will not prevent them from being with us again, for with keenness on their side, as it undoubtedly is, success will surely come.

May we see all our old faces back again next year after a good summer and, we hope, with many new players to take part in our struggles. How good it would be to have two full divisions once again as we had not so long ago. There are a number of ladies throughout the League where their clubs have no women's teams. We can only hope that we find teams entered from these other clubs in the near future.

Eileen Mansell.

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A Disappointing Season

BY JACK MCCAIG

What at first promised to be quite a rewarding season, eventually ended in a most depressing way despite our Youth team and Juniors finishing second in their respective divisions. Both the Men's 1st team and the Ladies' "A" team are faced with relegation. In the case of the Ladies this position has been a possibility all along, but the men were expected to perform rather better than they did. Life indeed is full of surprises!

WHAT OF THE FUTURE ?

Frankly, as I see things, our men are probably far too strong for other teams in their new sphere next season and I confidently expect them to top Division 2 West with quite a bit to spare. This is small consolation, however, because a repeat of this season's failures could just as easily happen the following year and the inevitable yo-yocommenced. Are our present players past their best? Personally I think they are. At least in two cases—Arthur Taylor and Norman Jones. Both of these fine players have given yeoman service to our League, but as the years go by it becomes more and more obvious that they cannot continue indefinitely. At the same time, have we the young players ready to step into their shoes? This I doubt also, but I hope to be proved quite wrong 'ere next season comes along.

THE OTHER SIDE

A happier note is struck by the Ladies' 1st team, who, it is nice to report, have finished up runners-up to the old enemy Manchester, the only team to have defeated us this season. Represented almost solely by Mrs. Moya Jones, Miss Willcox and Miss Crafter, the team has proved to be as good as, in fact better than, any for at least five years. Good show, girls!

The Youth and Junior teams, although not quite realising our hopes, have had good seasons and the experience gained by all the players concerned should be invaluable.

For the benefit of statisticians, here are the best averages for the season, based on a minimum of 75—representation in matches:—

R. Smith	66%	("A" team)
D. Butterworth	50	,, (1st & "A")
Mrs. M. Jones	83	,, (Ladies' 1st)
Miss M. Willcox	73	,, (Ladies 1st)
R. Smith	72	,, (Youth team)
T. J. Owens	66	,, (Youth team)
R. Eden	61	,, (Youth team)
G. Birch	90	,, (Junior team)

A WORD OF THANKS

When a League such as our own endeavours to run 6 teams in the Lanes. & Ches. League, there needs to be quite a lot of co-operation from many directions. This, as Match Secretary, I have been fortunate enough to be given for quite a number of seasons, and the current one has proved no exception. The weather has been severe making away matches hazardous and difficult, yet thanks to the many players who have taken part it has been an enjoyable season despite the loss of status of two teams. Yet, were it not for the time so

willingly given up by certain people taking various teams round the two counties there would be far less pleasure for others. I refer specifically to those non-playing officials who quietly but efficiently whisk the teams around. We are lucky to have these people in the League, and I say this, knowing first hand what difficulties other Leagues have trying to run just one or two teams.

In conclusion, "thank you" to all the clubs who have provided venues so willingly, which is the first essential to playing a match

match. Smith held an early lead right through the first game to take it at 21-17, then continued to torment Allanson throughout the second by his attack, mainly down the backhand. When the game reached 20-all, Smith took the lead and the tension in the room built up to a terrific level, but to the relief of Allanson one of Smith's backhand flicks missed the table and he, Allanson, eventually won the second 25-23-

After such an effort, it might have been expected that one or other of the players might relax just that little which would allow his opponent to coast home, but not this time. After some tremendous rallies, the score reached 16-all and only then did Allanson manage to pull ahead

to win 21-17.

Both contestants showed up well enough to deserve a winner's cup, but while it is a pity that there had to be a loser, there can be only one, and Allanson became the new Champion. There is no doubt that those who were fortunate enough to see this game will remember it for a long time, and we have to thank both Wally Allanson and Roy Smith for providing such an excellent spectacle.

Prizes were presented to all the winners and runners-up by our President, Mr. J. K. Hyde, to whom we owe our thanks for his continued interest in our affairs, although he now lives so many miles away. We all hope most sincerely that he will be performing similar duties for many years to come.

THANK YOU!

The Management Committee offer their sincere thanks to the following firms for their generosity in donating prizes for the Liverpool "Closed" Tournament.

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These prizes were donated as a result of approaches made by Mr. A. Montgomery, for whose labours the Committee are most grateful.

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31st Closed Championships

BY BRIAN LEESON

THE League Championships were held at Dingle Vale School again during April, and the finals found several new names appearing in the Honours lists after some extremely interesting games.

The Men's Consolation Singles, the first final to be decided was between D. Ferguson (Rafters) who had beaten G. Sanders (Cricket Club) in the semi-final, and A. Tolson (Wavertree Labour) who had previously disposed of his club-mate K. Chambers. Ferguson beat Tolson convincingly 21-11, 21-18.

The Women's Consolation brought together M. Francis (Crawford's) and Mrs. B. Topping (Cricket Club). In the semis, Miss Francis had accounted

for L. Wynne (Linnetts) and Mrs. Topping for Mrs. B. Black (Cadwa). The final was never really in doubt, Mabel Francis winning 21-16, 21-18.

Three of the finals were over very quickly, namely the Junior Singles, the Mixed Doubles and the Women's Doubles. G. Birch (Cadwa) took the Junior title as expected, beating R. Myers (L. YMCA) 21-11, 21-7. The Mixed final was a comfortable victory for the Bohemians pair, P. E. D'Arcy and M. Willcox over N. Roy Jones (L. YMCA) and Mrs. P. Lawrenson (Cadwa) while the Women's Doubles saw an even more convincing win for Mrs. Ivy Crafter and Mrs. Lawrenson (both Cadwa) over Mrs. G. Burns (Cadwa) and M. Francis (Crawford's). In the semis, Burns and Francis easily overcame the previous holders, J. Crafter and E. Mansell, while the Reynolds (Rafters).

The Veterans' final almost produced a shock result. Alec Gould (Bath Street) ran away with the first game 21-8 against Peter Rumjahn (the holder—Rafters) and went ahead at 21-20 in the second, but after some tremendously tense rallies Rumjahn eventually took the game at 27-25, and then the third at 21-18. Truly a fine exhibition of fireworks throughout.

The Men's Doubles was a similar affair. R. Smith (L. YMCA) and P. Turtle (Oakhill) took the first

game from P. E. D'Arcy (Bohs) and F. A. Thomas (Linnetts) 21-17. The second was an even more close contest which D'Arcy and Thomas managed to take at 21-19, but in the third D'Arcy and Thomas romped home 21-9, Smith and Turtle having little resistance to a tremendous barrage of attacking shots from both of their opponents. The losers had earlier accounted for V. Chesham and D. Butterworth, and for J. Cain and E. Clein, while the winners had a harder road to the final, having had to beat E. Mandaluff and G. Browlee, and then D. Ferguson and R. M. Rumjahn.

The Women's Singles was a close exciting struggle between M. Willcox (Bohemians) and R. Royle (Anfield). Miss Royle had had the harder road

to the final beating M. Francis, B. Taylor, J. Crafter (the holder) and P. Lawrenson, while Miss Willcox got to the final via wins over J. Barton, I. Crafter, W. Illidge and J. Randall. From the start it developed into a struggle between Reg Royle's excellent defence and Muriel Willcox's attack. Muriel took the first game at 21-19 and lost the second 16-21, but gradually Miss Royle's steady defence caused Miss Willcox to become rather too anxious to hit winners and she gave her opponent several points through rather desperate shots, so Miss Royle just got home 21-19 and became the new champion.

The Men's Singles final between W. Allanson (Bootle YMCA) and R. Smith (L. YMCA) was undoubtedly the most exciting event of the evening, and in my opinion, was the best final we have seen in recent years. Allanson reached the final by means of a sound win over G. K. Smith (L. YMCA) who had previously recorded a narrow victory over Norman Jones, whilst Smith got to the last stage by a good win over Ron Rumjahn, who had removed D. Butterworth in the previous round with surprising ease. From the start Allanson found it difficult to control Smith's powerful attack

THE TREASURER REPORTS ON THE CLOSED

BY DON CAMERON

WE MADE A PROFIT OF £13. You might think that this is the normal procedure, as we always make a profit (except for last year, when we made a LOSS of £7), but if we tell you that the League support was less than last year, entry fees being down by £5 and gate receipts down by £2, you might start wondering just how we managed to do it!

Full marks must go to the Committee, and especially to our old friends "Monty" and Jim Green for their strenuous efforts to effect economies. We saved £9 on printing by having all the entry forms typed and duplicated by Jim Green, who also enclosed them in the "Digest" issue. We saved £11 on prizes, due entirely to "Monty" who made the rounds of his business acquaintances and extracted donations in the way of gifts. Our total economies

in these two directions thus accounted for £20.

However, to economise on expenses was not sufficient. It was essential that we increased our revenue, and to this end, our thanks are once again solely due to "Monty" who from one firm obtained a large number of boxes of chocolates, and then to those people, especially Barbara Hand and Judy Crafter, who "flogged" raffle tickets at every session. We held 5 raffles and made £15, which was an increase of £9 over last year. The catering department also did a magnificent job with mainly two stalwarts, Mrs. Sturgeon and Mrs. Hughes behind the counter, who with only a slight increase in prices, and many fewer customers, increased their profit by £7. Next year we hope to do better still, but how about a bit more support from all our League members?

Details of Income and Expenditure

		£			£
Entry Fees	(40)	35	Hire of Rooms	(14)	15
Gate Receipts	(8)	6	Printing	(14)	5
Catering profit	(5)	6	Prizes	(20)	9
Raffle Receipts	(6)	15	Gratuities	(6)	6
			T.T. Balls	(2)	2
			Cartage	(7)	8
			Sundry expenses	(4)	4
Loss	(7)	—	Profit	—	13
	(67)	62		(67)	62

Thoughts on the Scottish Open

BY GEORGE GRIME

THIS year the Championships were held at a new venue—the Govan Town Hall in Glasgow's dockland. Out of an entry of well over a hundred, only one ranked player from England was present, Pam Mortimer of Warwickshire. In fact, I seemed to be the only representative of Lancashire.

As was only natural, Scotland was very well represented, all the ranked players being present, from the No. 1, Bertie Kerr, to the two exciting up-and-coming juniors, Riley and "Wee Willie" Gibb. But the stars of the show were the members of the official Australian team, immaculate and uniformed, comprising four men and two women, ably administered by their genial manager, Dr. Jackson.

After the long process of elimina-

tion the finals began on Sunday afternoon (31st March). Pam Mortimer triumphed in the Ladies' Singles and together with her young partner also in the Doubles, making it a treble in the Mixed, partnered by Alan Tomlinson. The Men's Doubles was an all-Australian affair and the smart turnout of these tremendously fit and tanned young men greatly enhanced the precision table tennis which was a delight to witness.

The highlight of the tournament was the final of the Men's Singles. It was an incredible match in which Tomlinson (NZ) and McDonald (A) gave a display of high-powered table tennis. Tomlinson was the victor by 3 games to 1 and after the match the Secretary of the Scottish T.T.A. said he had never in his life seen a display to equal it.

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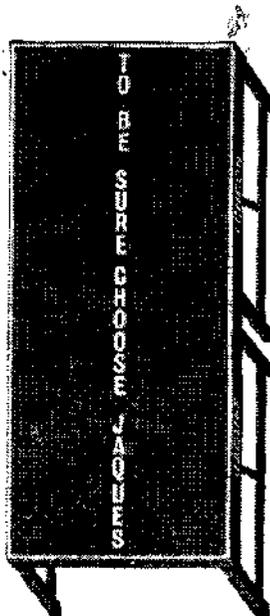
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