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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", 83 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17.

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EDITORIAL BOARD :

Editor : **Albert Montgomery.**
J. Green (News), T. H. Edge (Features), J. McKim, A. Upton and D. Cameron

Vol. XIV

MARCH, 1964

No. 4

EDITORIAL

As the Budget approaches we all hope that we shall receive some form of Tax concession from the Chancellor, and this thought led me to consider the National economy of the E.T.T.A.

The Editorial in the National magazine, "Table Tennis" for February, complains that, although the Special General Meeting approved certain amendments to the E.T.T.A. structure, the increases in fees payable by Leagues were not approved, and hints very strongly that another request is to be made to the A.G.M. for increased fees.

Now all this is very interesting, but would it not be better for the E.T.T.A. to consider just what benefits are derived by individual Leagues, especially in the North, from membership of their organisation? Here in Liverpool, a handful of players enter Open tournaments, and by virtue of the payment of still more cash to their funds we are "allowed" to conduct the Merseyside Open. BUT, to the players of our League in general, and League funds in particular, we are paying out year by year, and getting back less and less. Yet we are asked for still more!

Has it never occurred to the great ones in London that Leagues from the North are becoming increasingly tired of paying out, paying out, and again paying out to provide funds for the benefit of players from the South? For only the South ever seems to benefit from any funds provided. Instead of splashing cash around like drunken sailors, let the E.T.T.A. put their own house in order by doing a little economising. Each year we get an E.T.T.A. handbook which is well out of date (by about 12 months) by the time it reaches us—at a cost this year of £446. "Ball Testing"—£20, yet we still buy square balls at 1/6d. each! £54-0-0 for the County Secretaries' Conference—a good night out for the boys to no useful purpose from our point of view. BUT THIS IS OUR hard-earned cash, so instead of asking for more, let's see a bit more economy and far less waste, then we might feel a little more interested in what they do, but at the moment it seems certain that no more than 25 members of this League would worry if we dis-affiliated tomorrow.

A few more illustrations of the drains down which the cash disappears? Certainly:—

1.	Provision for cost of Development Commission Report	£250
2.	Salaries, Fees, Travelling and Hospitality	£590
3.	Hire of rooms (<i>what for?</i>)	£147
4.	Rent and Rates (<i>presumably for a room with an exotic address—Trafalgar Square, W.C.2—totally inadequate for Item 3</i>)	£306
5.	English "Open"—LOSS	£240
6.	English "Open"—travel, Hospitality and Meals!	£978
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10.	National Coach, Wages and Insurance	£1450
	LESS Government grant	£1100—LOSS
		£350
11.	National Coach, Expenses	£876
	LESS Expenses Recovered	£562—LOSS
		£314

That's the way the money goes—perhaps the weasel will soon POP!

Trying to read your thoughts, you will probably say, "Why don't we shout with a louder voice at the A.G.M. or Special General Meetings?" I quite agree, but what does that entail? Sending our two representatives to London, where these meetings are always held, costs us £5 per head rail fares, plus hotel and meals expenses. The cost to any Home County representative is probably a tube or bus fare of less than 2/6d., and home for supper, so again we have to pay dearly for the privilege of hearing others trying to milk us further by putting up our fees. So, for "expense" reasons many northern Leagues don't attend the meetings—because they cannot always afford to do so. If they were invariably held in, say Manchester, would the South have such a big say? Very doubtful.

This year (I am so advised by the Treasurer) we have paid unto the E.T.T.A. no less than £59-8-6, made up as follows: Affiliation Fees (£44-1-6), the Merseyside Open Tournament (£10-7-0), the Master Points Plan (£4-0-0) and Willmot Cup and Rose Bowl Fees (£1-0-0). What do we get in return? NOT EVEN GREEN SHIELD STAMPS!!!

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AN APOLOGY

While cutting the stencil for the entry form for the "Closed", I made three errors. Instead of those named as winners on the form, the winners of the Men's and Women's Consolation Singles were, respectively, D. A. Ferguson and Miss M. Francis, and in the Women's Doubles the holders are Mrs. Ivy Crafter and Mrs. Lawrenson. It would have been a hopeless task to alter some 900 forms and expensive to re-print. I can only offer my apologies to the three players concerned.—J. R. Green.

OUR LAST ISSUE

The final issue of the "Digest" for the season will be delayed until matches are completed and the final League tables made up by the Fixture Secretary. It will be sent to the Printers and posted as soon as available, but it will be late in the month before it can reach members.

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

Since the "Closed" is being held before the end of the season it will not be possible to have the Individual Records on display as has been the case in previous years. Instead, the records will be duplicated and a copy sent to each Club Secretary as soon as possible after the last matches, and we hope will be placed on each Clubs' notice board.

DISTANT FRIENDS

A notable name missing from the League this season is that of Mrs. "Bluey" Casselman, who, with her husband Clint, and family is now resident in Canada. While both gave many years of excellent service to their club, Rafter's, "Bluey" was for a very long time one of the mainstays of our Ladies' team, gaining Lancashire honours, and more than once winning our League Championship. Indeed, she was one of that Liverpool team which for the only time were finalists in the "Rose Bowl" competition, and was the No. 1 of that Rafter's team which made the Bartholomew Cup their "own" property.

We feel certain that in wishing Clint, "Bluey" and the family the very best of good fortune in the future, we are expressing the hopes of everyone in this League who were fortunate enough to have met them during their long career.

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24th February, 1964.

To: THE EDITOR,
"TABLE TENNIS DIGEST"

Dear Sir,

As the season is drawing to a close I would like to draw your attention to two items. At the opening of the season a new system of points was introduced to the League, and since then it has been a topic of conversation amongst all Clubs. I have spoken and discussed this with many players in 3A, in which I participate, and the majority feel that this system *should never have been introduced*. There is a typical example of this system if you look at this month's edition. You will notice that, in Division 1, Liverpool YMCA are in top place with Bohemians 2 points behind. If you revert to the old system, Bohemians would be top with 30 points and Liverpool YMCA second with 27—which is absolutely ridiculous.

To those Clubs which supported this system, "please think again" before you vote. Item No. 2 is the placing of teams in the respective third divisions. I know it is a most difficult job for the Management Committee, but I do feel that they can learn a very great deal from this season's results. If you examine closely all of the 3rd divisions you will find that there is a vast difference between the top halves and bottom halves of each one. Therefore I would like to suggest for the consideration of the Committee, that the four "top" halves of these divisions be combined to form two 3rd, 3A and 3B, with the four "bottom" halves forming 4A and 4B, for next season. I would also like to see 4 up and 4 down in all divisions.

Yours sincerely,

D. COULSON,

L.Y.C.A. T.T.C.

To: THE EDITOR,
"TABLE TENNIS DIGEST"

115, Chelwood Avenue,
Childwall,
Liverpool 16.

Dear Sir,

Having been present at the last two representative matches involving the Liverpool "A" team, I must express my dismay at the comparatively low standard of play in comparison with that displayed at previous "Liverpool Closed" Tournaments.

Yours sincerely,

I. T. HODGSON,

English Electric T.T.C.

P.S. *These are my personal opinions, and not necessarily those of my clubmates.*

WEDDING BELLS

On Thursday, 2nd April, the wedding will take place of Miss Barbara Hand and Brian Leeson, both of Fairlawn. In offering the most sincere personal congratulations and good wishes, the Editor feels that these will be echoed by every member of this League, for it is seldom that two people are more highly regarded than are Barbara and Brian by everyone who has come into contact with them in table tennis circles.

Although the wedding is so close at hand, with the consequent many calls on his spare time, Brian is still undertaking all preliminary work (and there is plenty of that) for the forthcoming "Closed", leaving only the actual job of Referee in other hands, thus assuring a good tournament as far as he possibly can for every competitor and spectator. For which we offer grateful thanks.

Applying the same arguments about who-beat-who to the bottom of the table, by consulting scores throughout the season, we can make out a case for ALL 14 TEAMS being relegated—all bar two of the two second divisions relegated, and none to come up from the four 3rd!!! So five or more teams are to be relegated as well as being joint League champions DESPITE MATCH RESULTS. Complicated? Not at all. It is the natural and logical conclusion from a particularly inane statement.

League champions in every sport are found by the simple process of finding that team which wins most MATCHES. I have never heard of say any football league, either professional or amateur which finds its champion by goal average. Which is just what is happening under this nonsensical system.

I must now apologise. In my notes last month I laid the blame of this new set-up at the door of the late lamented Fred Karno. I am assured by the Fan Club of the gentleman in question that he would never have dreamed—even at his wildest—of such arrant stupidity. To Fred and his followers I offer my deepest apologies. To libel the name of a dead man in this way was quite wrong, and I only hope that this apology is received in the spirit in which it is intended.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES R. GREEN,
Linnets and Aigburth T.T.C.

11a, Dorbett Drive,
Liverpool 23.

To: THE EDITOR,
"TABLE TENNIS DIGEST".

29th February, 1964.

Dear Sir,

I had been looking forward to a reply to my article "The Devastation of the League" and I expected some sound and reasoned comments; I hoped for a clear-cut explanation of the Committee's actions. Mr. McKim's letter in the last "Digest" was disappointing. As a substitute for constructive criticism he employed sarcasm and hackneyed phrases. He was obviously convinced that my article was a personal attack on himself. This was far from my intention. To my mind John McKim was a symbol of the Committee—and surely this is justified if they use him as their spokesman? As their method is to reach the playing members through the League Secretary, what is more natural than for me to address them through the same link?

But to return to Mr. McKim's letter. His implication that I wrote my article instead of attending the A.G.M. is evidence of confused thinking: the two events were six months apart. For the past few seasons I have been out of the table tennis scene: it was upon my return this season that I was shocked to read of the League changes. I had read neither Mr. McKim's article nor any of last year's "Digests" until November 1963.

I was aware when writing last time that Mr. McKim's article in the April '63 outlined a definite proposal put forward by the Committee. As I went to some pains to explain, this does not mean that people took the matter seriously—I feel that most were confident that its defeat at the A.G.M. would be a mere formality.

As for the extraordinary proceedings at the 1963 A.G.M., it is mystifying that Mr. Hebson should take great pains to inform the meeting of the exact intentions of the Committee, refer to the April article and engage the meeting in lengthy discussion WITHOUT A WORD OF THIS APPEARING IN THE MINUTES!

I intend to put my ideas to my Club Committee. If they regard them as hogwash I will bow to their opinion; if on the other hand they support me, then it will be my Club which will put forward the proposals at the next A.G.M.

Yours sincerely,

T. C. GORDON,
English Electric T.T.C.

12, Alderwood Avenue,
Spa, Liverpool 24.
24th February, 1964.

Dear Sir,

Having spent several hours trying to solve the "Inferential Puzzle" which was included in last month's issue of the "Digest" we have come to the conclusion that it is impossible to find a solution.

We submit the following argument:

From (14) "A"s. No. 5 (Jack) beat "B"s. No. 4.
From (1) Jack lost to Fred, who must be "B"s. No. 4.
From (8) and (11) Harry lost to a No. 4 and Sam beat Harry.

Therefore, Sam must be a No. 4, since Dick was the only player to lose both his sets. Also, Sam must play for "A" since Fred is "B"s. No. 4!

From (4) and (10) "A"s. captain, playing 1 or 3 beat Joe. Hence Joe must be 1, 2, 4 or 5 for "B".

From (12) Joe beat Sam ("A"s. No. 4).
Therefore Joe must be "B"s. No. 5.

From (14) "B"s. No. 5 scored 20 points against Jack. Consequently Joe's total is (20 plus 42) i.e. 62 points. BUT from (16) Joe scored 70 points altogether. Thus, somehow, Joe contrived to score 50 points from two games which did not go to "deuce".

To say that this problem "will give you something to think about" should go down as the understatement of the year.

Yours faithfully,

J. K. CHAMBERS (Wav. Labour).
B. N. ROBERTS (Coll. of Tech.).

3, Geinside,
Liverpool 18.

21st February, 1964.

Dear Sir,

I followed Mr. Tony Green's advice given in last issue of the magazine and I examined the league tables printed in the magazine. I was surprised indeed—I was surprised at what Mr. Green was getting so hot under the collar about.

I went through each division and I worked out the positions of the first four and the last four teams in each division. I could have worked out the lot but as the top and bottom are the vital ones, I confined myself to them. I found that in the eight divisions, 3 men's and 1 women's, the top four positions would have been exactly the same in 4 of the eight and the bottom four positions would have been the same in 5 of the eight. In five of the other seven groups of 4 teams it was not the new points system which caused the discrepancy in the League positions but the fact that one of the four teams concerned had played either 2 more matches or 2 less matches than the other 3 so time will probably sort out the problem in these divisions.

The only two sections where Mr. Green and the other enemies of the new points system have a leg to stand on are the top of the first division and the bottom of division 3A. So half-way through the season—half-way mark you—the new system is 14/16th correct.

Mr. Green Snr. in his first division notes states and I quote "a team having lost 1 and drawn 1 is lying above a side with only 1 loss". He also says, and again I quote "Liverpool YMCA having beaten their nearest rivals Bohemians 7-3". Now there are some people, and I am one of them, who would say that in light of the above facts the team that has lost 1 and drawn 1 (Liverpool YMCA) deserves to be above the side with only 1 loss (Bohemians).

Yours faithfully,

ERNEST W. STURGES,
Beauclair T.T.C.

SUCCESSFUL YOUTH TEAM

It is always pleasant to report good tidings where our League teams are concerned and it is therefore most agreeable to offer congratulations to our Youth team who have now completed a most successful season by winning their division outright. This was not achieved without much hard work, and only the narrowest of wins (6-4) over Burnley and Wavertree Labour secured the championship. I am sure that Ron is rightly proud of his side, represented this year by A. Tolson, R. Gray (son of old friend Reg. Snr.—not too good these days but still vastly interested in League affairs), R. Smith, R. Eden and G. Birch. It is not fair to single out any players, for all have given fine service to the side, so suffice to say "well done, lads".

LADIES ALSO!

What a pity that our girls are not yet able to slip one across our old foes from Manchester! If that had been managed this season, they would have emerged winners of their division also, for a record of played 5, won 4, speaks for itself, but there always seems to be that odd match lost, and always to the same opponents. Nevertheless it must be conceded that our girls are at least runners-up in Lancashire at the present time. The side has remained unchanged throughout, and the individual records are only fractionally different, so Mrs. Jones, Miss Willcox and Miss Crafter have contributed equally to the team's success.

A HARD ROAD

The Ladies' second team inevitably take the odd drubbing, but their record of played 5, won 1, drawn 1, lost 3 is, in the circumstances, very creditable. One player in this team who I feel does deserve mention is Miss Mabel Francis, who, in her first season representing Liverpool has acquitted herself most ably, winning 9 of her 15 sets. A veritable bundle of energy, Miss Francis is never beaten until the last point goes against her, and she was an inspiration during the match v. Blackpool at Beauclair. I feel that she will be knocking on the 1st team door before long.

NOT COMPLETE

Three of the League teams have yet to finish their programme, both Men's teams plus the Juniors. The Men's 1st team dropped a valuable point drawing with the Business Houses. Depending on the last set of the night with the score 5-4 to Liverpool, although Business Houses levelled the score, the set between Wally Allanson and Roy Jones was a corker. It made my evening.

The Men's "A" team have yet to play Wirral "A" and Chester, and need one or two points to secure their place in Division 2. The Juniors again seem to have lost their chance of honours. Without Birch and McPherson against Wirral, they were well beaten by 8 sets to 2, and with further tricky matches with Bolton and Stockport, it does not look too hopeful.

PUZZLE?

Don Cameron has asked that an apology be made on his behalf to readers whose efforts to solve his puzzle were unrewarded by success. In some manner some clues were worded wrongly. In the next issue he hopes to give the correct clues and in another part of the magazine, the solution.

At any rate, his comment that it might give you something to think about was completely justified, so he did achieve something!

Around the Divisions

DIVISION 1

—BY JIM GREEN

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
L'pool YM	20	18	1	1	169
Bohemians	18	17	1	0	144
Rafters	20	16	4	0	143
Anfield	20	12	4	4	126
Cadwa	19	11	6	2	113
L'pool YM 'A'	19	12	6	1	108
Oakhill	18	8	7	3	97
Linnets	18	6	11	1	81
L'pool Pirates	18	7	10	1	77
Lucem	20	6	13	1	75
Bohemians 'A'	17	5	10	2	66
Waterloo Dock	20	4	14	2	66
Rafters 'A'	18	1	17	0	35
Bootle YMCA	19	0	19	0	20

THE League tables are steadily sorting themselves out, with Liverpool YMCA and Bohemians staying close together, and pulling away from all other challengers. Much now depends on each side going for every single set, and it may yet prove that the final match of the season will decide matters. Rafters are alone in third place, and look certain to stay there, but 4th place is now wider open than ever, following successive defeats of Cadwa by Linnets (2-8) and Lucem (4-6), while Anfield have been storming up the table for some weeks. Liverpool YM 'A' have two matches in hand, and are still in with a good chance, but they have to win the outstanding games by a good margin to stay with Anfield. Against Linnets only Harold Willcock had any success beating Tony Green and Dennis Underhill, both in the 3rd. Allanson fell to Ralph Gunnion and Tony Green, and Gordon Birch to Gunnion and Frank Thomas, and Ted Birch and Bill Crafter both went down to a

back-to-form Mike Cooper. In the next match they fielded their weakest side of the season at Lucem, and presented the home team with six much needed points, which might prove salvation for Lucem.

Anfield, with a reserve in at 5, drew v. the YM 'A' away, Kenny Roberts (who beat Stoddart and Lawson) and Cyril Bradshaw (wins over cuff and Brannigan) saving the day for YMCA. Roberts win over Stoddart was a fine achievement, but his set v. Lawson must have been most peculiar, for after winning the first game to 8, the 2nd was only decided at 25/23. One most surprising feature of this match was the double defeat of Roy Smith by Lawson and Cuff.

The lower end is still somewhat chaotic, but, all being well, Linnets have gained sufficient ground to ensure another season in the division, and Balfour, with two matches in hand, lead the remainder, so there should be no worries for them. Rafters 'A' and Bootle YMCA are now doomed, and from my reckoning Waterloo Dock are losing just too many points to keep up. The other relegation candidates, Lucem and Bohemians 'A' are too close together for any accurate forecast, but there is not one side of the bottom seven who can say (yet) "We're clear!" which adds spice to these last few weeks. I'll make definite forecasts in the next notes—after the last matches—playing safe.

Entry forms for the "Closed" were distributed in our last issue—don't forget to send yours in before the closing date. See you all then.

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DIVISION 2A

BY JIM ROBINSON

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Wav. Lab. 'A'	18	18	0	0	161
R.A.F.A.	19	15	3	1	132
Cadwa 'A'	19	12	5	2	117
Linacre	17	10	5	2	96
Waterloo Park	16	10	6	0	92
Beauclair	17	8	6	3	91
Bath St. 'A'	18	7	7	4	90
L.P.A.S. 'A'	18	5	9	4	84
Eng. Elec.	17	7	7	3	77
Oakhill 'A'	17	3	9	5	67
Fairlawn 'A'	19	2	14	3	58
L'pool P.O.	17	3	12	2	57
Rafters 'B'	17	0	16	1	28

THERE have been practically no significant changes in our division since my last notes, and after studying the teams matches remaining, it appears almost certain that Wavertree Labour 'A' and RAFA will eventually gain promotion to the 1st division.

The Rumjahn Cup semi-finals went exactly as forecast, both the Wavertree Labour teams having extremely comfortable victories. It only remains for me now to wish the 'A' team, who are of course in our division, the best of luck in the final—and don't be too surprised if they do pull it off.

Whilst at several clubs recently I have heard numerous grumbles about the present League set-up, all of which seem primarily concerned with the relative playing strengths of the teams in various divisions, and although realising to the full the difficulties of the Management Committee, it does seem, on the surface, rather hard on (say)

Rafters 'B' who were placed in our division against their will and who obviously have virtually no chance of winning even one match.

An almost similar situation will arise next season with my own club, who, as suggested earlier, will probably be promoted to division 1, and almost certainly relegated immediately, at the end of the same season. This, as can well be imagined, is not likely to foster any great enthusiasm for the game. Surely it is not beyond the capabilities of our very excellent Committee to organise divisions of a little nearer equality in strength, and possibly to take some notice when a team advises them that they will be considerably weaker than they have been in preceding seasons. Another silly aspect of the rather silly state of affairs of the last few years, which have been noted for the almost bi-annual complete reorganisation of the League, is that there is one club who have a good chance of playing 1st division table tennis next season, who have come up from the old Central Region to their present status, without ever having won a divisional title, and who have indeed, only once in all these years finished in the top two teams of their division. How ridiculous can things become?

Finally I have been hauled over the coals by Harry Reynolds of Rafters, who informs me that in all his long connection with the Liverpool and District T.T. League he has never been mentioned in the magazine. Well, you have now, Harry!

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DIVISION 3A

By DAVID EATON

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Pirates 'A'	17	16	1	0	145
Wav. Lab. 'C'	20	14	5	0	128
Colonsay	16	14	1	1	118
St. Mary's Coll.	19	11	7	1	114
Linnets 'C'	21	12	9	0	113
Maghull	17	12	5	0	104
Stanley House	18	11	4	3	103
L'pool Jewish	17	10	7	0	94
Oakhill 'B'	20	6	14	0	75
Eng. Elec. 'C'	19	4	14	1	69
Anfield 'D'	19	5	13	1	66
University 'A'	20	5	14	1	65
L.Y.C.A.	19	3	15	1	63
Fairlawn 'B'	19	2	15	2	50

LIVERPOOL Pirates 'A' are still at the top of our division despite their untimely defeat by Wavertree Labour 7 sets to 3 at the Labour Club. Having judged them by their performance to date I think it far exceeded our wildest dreams to see them beaten in our division, and it has long been realised that they were in a division rather lower than warranted by their ability. Pirates sets were won by Les Lewis (2) and T. Holloway (1). As I write I have heard a rumour that Linnets 'C' left Southmead Road with another 4 points from Pirates, but I have no confirmation as yet. If true, these sets might prove invaluable to Colonsay, who are keeping up a strong challenge to the leaders, and even though they are still a bit behind, they might pull something extra out of the bag to pip the Pirates on the post. Only recently Colonsay beat University 'A' and Linnets 'C', both by the crushing margin of 10-0, and are worthy candidates for promotion.

For a new team, this season have shown St. Mary's Old Boys to be a surprise packet, well worth their fourth place in the table, such wins as their recent 9-1 over Oakhill,

9-1 v. Anfield 'D', and University 7-3, showing their strength.

Linnets 'C' seem to be holding their own a third of the way down, as such wins as 10-0 v. Fairlawn 'B' and LYCA 7-3 confirm. In the Fairlawn game, Linnets newcomer Miss M. Lewis met Fairlawn's Miss Barbara Hand in what I hear was a cracking set, victory going to the Linnets lady by a very narrow margin. A fine win for one who so recently took up the sport.

Probably the most remarkable team must be Liverpool Jewish, who have recovered from the bottom spot of the division and now lie half-way, although this might be due to one or two changes in the side, Warren Davies being the only player to maintain his place. Some of their recent matches resulted in wins against Fairlawn 10-0 and Anfield 'D' 9-1. Oakhill 'B' have fallen away by not winning a match since mid-January, and among their recent defeats is a 7-3 knock by Anfield 'D'. Further down the division we find L.Y.C.A. who are still managing to keep away from the bottom of the table, due possibly to the fine efforts of D. Blake, E. Johnson and D. Connon who recently were the backbone of a 6-4 win over English Elec. 'C'.

Barbara Hand beat R. Brown of Maghull to win the only set of recent weeks for the luckless Fairlawn, who have suffered sledge-hammer defeats and who now lie bottom of the table.

We hope to see our division well represented in the Restricted Singles in the 'Closed', for this is for 3rd division players only, and is an opportunity for us to play others from the same sphere who we normally do not come up against.

OBITUARY.

Members of the League will have learned with deep regret of the death of Mrs. Micklefield, wife of Mr. Fred Micklefield, a former Vice-President of the League and donor of the "Micklefield" Medal, and we tender our sincere condolences to Mr. Micklefield and his Family in the great loss which they have sustained.

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Anfield 'B'	20	16	3	1	159
Linnets 'B'	19	16	2	1	156
Wav. Lab. 'B'	17	16	0	1	147
Mossley Hill	19	13	3	3	135
Sefton Gen.	19	15	3	1	133
Crawfords 'B'	20	10	9	1	121
Bath St. 'C'	20	9	10	1	102
Eng. Elec. 'B'	19	8	10	1	80
Crawfords 'C'	20	4	14	2	60
Pirates 'B'	15	5	10	0	50
Colonsay 'A'	20	3	16	1	50
Orrell 'A'	19	2	15	2	48
Coll Tech. 'A'	19	3	14	2	46
Linnets 'F'	17	1	14	2	27

■ COULD say, "I told yer so!"

In fact I will! For Mossley Hill have turned into the team to watch in this second half of the season. Having drawn with Wavertree Lab. (in itself an achievement) they have now overtaken Sefton and lie in 4th place in the table. Bob Hudson took Alan Tolson to three, repeating Mossley Hill's achievement in the first encounter when captain Derek Mahan managed to steal a game from the Labour No. 1. Apart from these two, Tolson's 100 per cent. record has been maintained by 2 straight wins. The next two weeks should be interesting as Mossley Hill meet first Anfield 'B' then Linnets 'B'. The surprise of last week was that of Anfield 'B' dropping four extra-valuable points to the lowly Liverpool Pirates 'B'. Having no details of the match yet, I can only assume that a stronger than usual Pirates side was at home that night.

By GEORGE GAIME

So far this season I have not commented on the new 'pyramid' system of divisions that we found ourselves dropped into at the beginning of the season. However, with the season now three-quarters over it is perhaps time to ponder on the absurdity of this 'bright new scheme'. Of course it is easier to be destructive rather than constructive, but the difference between the top six and bottom six in playing standard is quite ridiculous when it comes to match making. I'm NOT sneering at the weaker teams, but am taking their side in deploring that they have been 'thrown to the wolves' for half of the season. How can one reconcile a competitive League with the fact that a 'strong' player is expected to deliberately lower his game and throw away points in order to make the final score look less punishing? For my money it is no more demoralising to be 'rubbed out' than to have to accept the patronising gestures of generosity from an opponent in order to scrape together a few face-saving points. However, although the competitive side has at times been a bit thin, really the division can be credited with a good deal of enthusiasm and vigour, the latter making it seem a lot less chilly in the colder clubrooms.

P.S. For those of you still to visit English Electric, try No. 25 on their Colour TV Juke Box. If that doesn't add five points to your game NOTHING WILL!!!

DIVISION 3C

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Crawfords 'A'	20	18	1	1	163
Coll. Tech.	19	15	1	3	157
L'pool YM 'C'	20	14	2	4	129
LPAS 'B'	20	10	7	3	126
Pirates 'C'	19	10	6	3	119
Orrell	19	10	8	1	113
Bobs 'C'	20	11	8	1	112
L'pool Jewish	15	10	2	3	106
Beauclair 'A'	19	10	7	2	106
Eng. Elec. 'B'	19	7	11	1	67
Lowlands 'A'	20	4	10	6	49
Linnets 'E'	19	0	15	4	37
Oakhill 'C'	20	0	10	3	29
Bradstones	10	0	17	2	20

By JIMMY BOWDEN

ONCE more the table stays unchanged with Crawfords 'A' holding on to their lead but I think it possible that by the end of the season College of Technology will have overhauled them unless something out of the ordinary happens. Though they cannot afford to drop sets as they did against Liverpool Jewish, who once more held them to a draw as they did in the first half of the season, but at the same time Crawfords dropped four when they fell foul of the Pirates for whom Maureen King won both her sets.

Mr. Green Snr. replies . . .

Mr. Sturgess would make an excellent politician taking quotes out of context, but what about the teams which beat and drew with the YMCA? Bohemians have soundly beaten both recently, but by the above peculiar argument, both Linnetts and Anfield should now be above YMCA! However, in view of his vast 1st division experience (?) I must bow to Mr. Sturgess on matters concerning that division.

Further, having only done half the job of re-arranging divisions, on his own admission, he has only got half of his own facts. How about the thirty-one teams of last season, Ernest? As I read it (apart from the cracks at myself) the letter in question was more an appeal to the Committee to instruct John McKim to write facts rather than fiction.

STOP PRESS

The Redman Cup Final

IN conversation with Ken Jones a week before the final, I was assured that this would be his last season as Secretary of Bohemians, and while hoping that he will change his mind, his side gave him a grand finale to 16 years of hard labour by winning this final for the first time ever. There were some anxious moments for him before the issue was finally settled, and in the early stages Liverpool YMVA 'A' took the lead on two occasions. Bobby Owen gave them a good start by beating Keith Rawlinson 21-10 in the 3rd, and after the scores had been levelled by Pete D'Arcy by a win over Harry Johnston, Bernard Hand went down to Ken Roberts, and the YM had their tails up. Roy Smith put them 3-1 into the lead by beating the redoubtable Harry Spiers, but that was their last win, and Bohemians then took charge, and ran out comfortable winners 7-3.

Although the score makes it fairly decisive, the YM gave Bohemians some anxious times, but from the moment when Bernard Hand took Bobby Owen 21-8, 21-19 in the sixth set the ultimate result was never in doubt, and in fact only one set after the 2nd even went to three games.

Bruce Cain and Pete D'Arcy both earned 'doubles' with Spiers, Hand and Rawlinson adding one apiece, and for the losers, Smith, Roberts and Owen each gained one win. Harry Johnston played well, taking both his opponents to three, but just could not get there.

Highlights of the match? Well, Bruce Cain's easy victory over the YM's Kenny Roberts (21-17, 21-12) was probably the chief high point, and John Coveney (to the huge glee

of the onlookers) picked one up from the floor in his usual manner, with such side spin that Harry Spiers missed his tremendous drive by virtue of the ball spinning roughly three feet wide of his bat. Bernard Hand showed his old form (and what form it was) against Owen, and Roy Smith, in his magnificent show v. Spiers, did some retrieving which had to be seen to be believed. In fact at times only Crawford's excellent venetian blinds saved him from going through the windows but the ball still came back. Even in his Closed final last season Roy never played better than this, and his win was earned the hard way, even at times the ball seemed to run his way a bit.

The League Chairman, Mr. Upton, had travelled some 14 miles or so to present the Cup and trophies. The trophies were duly presented but unfortunately the Cup itself could not be located despite desperate 'phone calls beforehand, so, on the promise from Keith Rawlinson (on Bohemians behalf) of a pint from each member of the side, the official in charge of the match is to take it to their next home match, always provided that it can be tracked down in time! We are assured that the Cup WAS indeed mislaid, and that it was not confidence on YMCA's part that they would have to carry it both to and from the final (unnecessary waste of labour) which caused its absence.

Thanks are due to Crawfords for once again staging the final, and although one club boasts that they have the finest tea-maker in the League, Crawfords can claim a close second place!

We must congratulate the College of Technology on reaching the final of the Hyde Cup, and they carry the best wishes of the whole division in their clash with Wavertree Lab. 'B'. Wraham Platt, their No. 1, still boasts a 100 per cent. record with 34 League and Cup wins, and I cannot see him losing his record unless the old campaigner from Linnets 'E' turns out to prove me wrong though he only plays when no other reserve is available).

There is also a keen fight going on at the bottom of the table where Linnets 'E', Bradstones and Oadhill 'C' are all contenders for the wooden spoon. Who it will be is anyone's guess, for R. Rice, who has won three of his last four sets is giving Bradstones incentive to get ahead of their rivals, and Miss M. Pickthall is the main set producer for Pakhill.

Orrell are holding their middle of the table position, and are having a keen tussle with Bohemians 'C' as

to who will finish above the other. When the two sides met, a close match was anticipated, which was the outcome, for although Bohemians 'C' ran out the winners, three of their wins were only decided in the third game. Linnets 'E' did well to take four points from Liverpool YMCA 'C' but the YM were a player short to account for two of Linnets sets. There have been no team walk-overs in the division so far, and the number of individual walk-overs are few and far between, so let's keep it up.

The first match for the Micklesfeld Medals for us will be v. Division 3A at Beauclair on Friday, 13th March, when the team will be G. Platt (Coll. Tech.), B. Cullen (L'pool YMCA 'C'), W. Hardcastle (Beauclair), R. Lewis (L'pool Jewish) and G. Brint (Orrell), and we wish them every success. I hope to see a good entry from the Division also in the Restricted Singles at the 'Closed'.

DIVISION 3D

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
St. Edward's	15	14	0	1	125
L'pool Jewish	13	12	1	0	110
Eng. Elec. 'A'	13	11	1	1	107
Anfield 'C'	14	9	5	0	101
Lowlands	15	9	6	0	86
Beauclair 'B'	15	7	8	0	61
Linnets 'D'	12	5	7	0	53
Dom. Mission	14	4	10	0	53
Lossac	14	3	11	0	40
Lucem 'A'	14	2	12	0	27
Bradstones 'A'	16	0	15	0	9

MY first thoughts on the exit of the Liverpool Pirates 'D' team were on how much we would miss their glamour, but little did I know that we had two excellent replacements in the Bradstones team, Joan Carr and Pam Lyons. Their enthusiasm despite lack of success is worthy of mention, together with that of team mates Fearon, Sullivan and Rice. Bradstones made a handy signing of Tripp, ex-Lowlands. Next month we shall be hailing the champions, but this month I say a cordial "well done" to the wooden spoonists.

St. Edward's, who have not been able to field a full strength team lately have been dropping a few points which could prove disastrous under this new system. For Anfield,

By JACK LAMBERT

Tattersall beat O'Donnell 29-27, 21-18 with Birch and Southall adding other points. In the Linnets-St. Edward's game, Peter Wass, the Linnets junior, scored his best win to date beating O'Keefe 24-22, 17-21, 21-19. Ashcroft and Jarman being the other set winners. Beauclair won a great game at Domestic Mission 6-4, the honours going to F. Sneade and J. McVey and McVey also took his side's only set from Lowlands. Eng. Electric and Liverpool Jewish have a series of 10-0 wins to their credit, the latter breaking the sequence with an 8-2 win over Anfield, but this was an excellent victory even though of the winning sets four went to three.

Despite the fact that they have not won against any of the top five, it was surprising to see Anfield topping last month's table. Dave Cohen is having a fine season for the Jewish team and his tremendous enthusiasm and practical assistance have played a major role in the forming of this new club.

Having a personal interest I am keenly looking forward to the end of the season games, which by some coincidence bring all of the top sides together. Which should provide a fine finish.

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Cadwa	19	17	0	2	156
Bohemians	16	15	0	1	126
Bath St.	17	13	4	0	125
Crawfords	17	12	3	2	123
Linnet	18	10	5	3	118
Anfield	17	7	6	4	92
Rafters	16	8	5	3	90
Cadwa 'A'	17	5	9	3	82
Pirates	16	3	11	2	56
Cheshire Lines	18	5	12	1	51
Bohemians 'A'	16	3	13	0	35
Eng. Electric	18	0	16	2	28
Linnet 'A'	17	1	15	1	27

SO little of note has happened since last month that it is virtually impossible to pinpoint any items of outstanding interest. The top teams win (as expected), the bottom ones lose (as expected) and those in the middle either win or lose (as expected). Which more or less sums up the month. Outstanding individual successes are few—Marion Lewis (Linnets 'A') win over Barbara Horsley in her side's 1-0 loss v. Crawfords, and Maureen King's 2nd win over Jean Reynolds are about the only two which come to mind. However in my travels round the League I have seen great improvements in the cases of one or two players, and I think we shall see a few names cropping up much more frequently in the next season.

Cadwa disposed of their own 'A' team in one semi-final of the Bartholomew Cup to meet Crawfords in the final. Crawfords were conceded

the semi-final by Bohemians who were unable to raise their team on the night laid down, and no postponement was possible. This is Crawford's first appearance in the final, and I hope that both teams will be able to play at full strength and that an enjoyable match results.

I have had several comments on the article regarding women's play in the League published in last month's magazine. Some were most interesting, as were suggestions made, but it seems impossible to get the girls to put their views in writing. Come on girls, let's hear from you! However, we all seem to agree that there is far less interest in this division than formerly, and that if we are to survive, some type of drastic action will have to be taken. Three of the bottom four sides are the newcomers this year, and they all appear to have enjoyed their games. No doubt their playing standard will continue to improve, as it has undoubtedly done this year, but our division is still under strength and a couple more teams dropping out would leave us in a particularly bad position. Get your views on paper to the Editor, girls! After all, it is your division.

I hope to see a record entry for the Closed at Dingle Vale, both from this division and the "exiles" in the mixed divisions. Even if the Women's division is falling in standard, at least let us see that the standard throughout the League is still strong.

Letters to the Editor

43-45, Lark Lane,
Liverpool 17.

25th February, 1964

Dear Sir,

It has come to my knowledge that amongst certain people it is being said that, since Liverpool YMCA beat Bohemians 7-3 they are worthy to be League leaders, and that such a position is only just. Suppose we accept this purely for argument's sake—not because I believe it. Now, we have Liverpool YMCA top because they beat Bohemians. BUT, Anfield drew with YMCA which (by the same argument) makes them joint "top". Linnets beat YMCA which makes them "top"—Bohemians beat Linnets which gives them "top" place also; Cadwa beat Linnets 8-2 at home and lost 2-8 away, which, equalising the scores, makes Cadwa "top". We now have, in top place, Liverpool YMCA, Bohemians, Anfield, Linnets, Cadwa, Uncle Tom Cobley and all!

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Wav. Labour	18	18	0	0	172
Anfield 'A'	18	13	3	2	115
L'pool YM 'B'	19	11	5	3	112
Bath St.	17	11	4	2	107
University	21	7	7	7	105
L.P.A.S.	19	9	5	5	104
Fairlawn	19	9	7	3	101
Bohemians 'B'	18	8	6	4	95
Crawfords	17	8	7	2	91
Cadwa 'B'	19	4	14	1	77
Linnet 'A'	16	4	8	4	63
Bath St. 'B'	19	1	17	1	35
Wat. Pk. 'A'	20	0	20	0	23

THE positions in this division show a very intriguing picture indeed as will be obvious from the League table. The battle for 2nd place is proving a really close affair, involving no less than 6 teams—Anfield 'A', Liverpool YMCA 'B', Bath St., LPAS, University and Fairlawn. I think it is almost a certainty that Wavertree Labour will be eventual division champions and that Bath St. 'A' and Waterloo Park 'A' are doomed to relegation, but the teams between them are cutting each other up every week. Anfield 'A' have come right back into the picture recently and I will not be surprised if they are the side which accompanies the Labour team to Division 1, although they still have to play the Labour Club, and a heavy defeat there will be a set-back to promotion hopes. Brannigan and Jones are playing consistently well, and each achieved a fine double against Bath Street, both beating Alex Gould in straight games to help Anfield to a convincing 7-3 win.

Fairlawn have slipped a bit lately,

but are still in the running and after a 3-7 loss to Anfield pulled off a good win v. LPAS by 6 sets to 4, with 7 of the 10 sets going to three. A tight match indeed!

University are improving in their results but had a set-back against Crawfords losing 7-3. Arthur Jones seems available more often now for Crawfords. No less than 9 of the sets ended in the third, with 7 of them going to Crawfords. LPAS are another side who could make that coveted No. 2 spot for two of their remaining fixtures are against the two bottom sides, Bath St. 'B' and Waterloo Park 'A', and I shall be surprised if they don't pick up 20 easy points from these two.

Judy Crafter had two exceedingly fine wins against the strong Anfield team, beating Brannigan 21-12, 21-18 and Bill Jones 27-25, 21-17—the only two victories for the Cadwa team. Linnets 'A' are still in the relegation zone and suffered a heavy defeat to the hands of the University by 9 sets to 1, when it was left to the "old man" of the team, Jimmy Green, to notch Linnets' only game by beating M. Snyder 21-16 in the 3rd, but I think he must have run out of steam when he met University's big hitting No. 1, R. Francis, losing 17 in the third.

It looks as though the last matches of the season are going to settle both promotion and relegation (that's how close it is at the moment) and the atmosphere at some of the games will be electric, but I have no doubt that they will be played with the usual good sportsmanship that has characterised this division this season.

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