

**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" 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**

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## EDITORIAL

### MANNERS

**I**T is with regret but little surprise that I learn that the number of players arriving late at matches does not appear to be getting any less.

What a gross display of bad manners this reveals. Surely the players concerned (these appear to be the same time and again) realise that their lack of thought can be very annoying to their opponents.

It seems that 9 p.m. is not an uncommon time for certain of these people to arrive, either for home or away matches. If this is so, is it not time that the opposing captain exercised his right and claimed the game when the offender is called upon and is found to be absent. He will probably object very strongly when he does arrive, but on what grounds? How self-centred can these conceited creatures become?

This complete lack of manners is evident also in those who appear to find it necessary to leave the match during its progress in order to visit the bar, or, if there is no bar on the premises, the nearest public house until they think they will be needed again. These creatures, when playing, all expect someone to jump to volunteer to umpire for their sets, but are never to be found to perform this essential duty themselves.

There will be many of you who will object to the tone of this Editorial. I, the Editor, am entirely responsible for writing it, and I do not apologise to any of the offenders either now or at anytime in the future. I feel sure that the genuine members of the League will agree with me whole-heartedly. Those who read this Editorial and take exception to it are perhaps a little guilty themselves and I suggest that they take a long look at themselves and their own actions, and make our table tennis matches a social event as well as a match, between two sides, both determined to win.

I feel sure that a better spirit would be found if we adopted as our motto: "We come as a team, We play as a team, and, We leave as a team."

### CLOSED TOURNAMENT

With this issue you will be getting your entry form for the "Closed". Let us have it back with your entry fee early. You will see that the regulations for the Restricted Singles have been altered slightly to allow those ladies who play in the Women's Division (excluding those who play regularly in Divisions 1 and 2) to take part. This should make this event even more interesting than was the case last year.

**W**E are approaching the end of another season and it is time to start thinking about the A.G.M. and any changes that are required for next season.

It appears to me, and I must stress that the views expressed here are my **personal** views, not those of the Committee, that we have two major problems. One is the trouble that we experience each year with teams dropping out after the season has started thus causing vacancies in the divisions and the other (and I feel more serious) problem of teams not turning up for matches. This type of offence has increased again this season.

This is an offence which is most difficult to cope with because, in addition to punishing the offending team you have to ensure that the team which has been let down does not suffer, and as far as possible that the other teams in the division are not affected in their promotion or relegation struggles by one of the rivals being handed a 10 point gift.

It strikes me that the answer to this problem may lie in the adoption of a system similar to that used in County Cricket Championships where the League position is determined on averages. We could take as the determining figure the average sets won per match played and using this system we would not need to award any points to a team

which did not actually play a match.

I am fully aware that this would not be absolutely fair. A team that should have won a match 10.0 would, if granted a walk-over, lose a chance to improve their average, but I think the system would be a lot nearer to being fair than the present system. Coupled with this I would like to see it written into the rules that any team giving away a match (either by not turning up or by phoning beforehand and forfeiting the match) should, in addition to any penalty the Committee may impose on them, have a set number of points deducted from their score. I would suggest 5.

One final complaint I would like to make. The number of players who are taking part in matches in shoes instead of pumps seems to be increasing again. It has come to my knowledge that a match took place recently involving a well known club. Their team only contained three players and I understand that these played in a variety of winkle pickers, cuban heels and collars and ties. Apart from being completely against League rules it is most inconsiderate if you happen to be playing at a club whose floor is used for dancing. Surely it is not too much trouble to change your shoes? Or are you youngsters too good to have to bother to wear pumps?

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**No escape this time?**

**I**T would appear that our 1st men's team are doomed to relegation unless something happens, as last season, when the premier division was reorganised and we were reprieved. I feel that this is unlikely to be repeated, and the unpalatable truth emerges that the Liverpool League is unable, at present, to produce a team capable of holding its own amongst the best in the two counties. Even a creditable draw with Stockport and a good 7-3 win against the Wirral have not improved prospects—only to ensure that Wirral are relegated also. One cannot see any joy forthcoming from the last fixture, that against Manchester, but in any event the players have at least tried as hard as anyone could have done, to stave off the inevitable.

**Well done Girls**

Against the shortcomings of our men, the ladies 1st team have had a very good season so far, and for the first time for many years reached the zone final of the Rose Bowl competition, finally making their exit to Birmingham, a very efficient side. In the League the

same team who have represented Liverpool all season, had a storming match recently with our own "A" team, and although finally winning the match 7-3, it was not before Jean Reynolds, Joyce Randall and Muriel Cox had given Judy Crafter, Maureen King and Mabel Francis something to think about. The "A" team continue to hold their own in this division, and although there is no question of relegation in this sphere, it is good to see them in the middle of the table. It is probably many years since our League was able to turn out two ladies teams of almost equal strength.

**Still winning**

Both the Youth and Junior teams continue their winning ways, and the Youth team particularly must have an outstanding chance of winning their division. One of the strongest teams, that of Nelson, were overcome comfortably by 7-3 recently, and success against Blackburn shortly would virtually clinch the League for the second year running. The team has remained unchanged throughout with P. Ferris, R. McPherson and E. Birch.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

In the Editorial of the January "Digest", we were asked to express our opinions as to the desirability of a League Headquarters.

After reading the February issue of "Table Tennis" not only do I think it is desirable but essential. I see that in the world ranking list there isn't an Englishman in the first 20. A little nearer home the best we can do in the national ranking is M. Symonds. He does at least come from Lancashire.

And what about the Lancashire and Cheshire League? Well, out of 9 teams, Liverpool are 8th. Teams like Bolton, Stockport and Blackpool from towns with only a fraction of our population are 3rd, 4th and 5th, respectively.

If a League Headquarters can help to raise the quality of our own top table tennis players then I think that we must do all that we can to make it a reality.

When the tables were not in use for local Cup tournaments or inter-City matches it may even be possible to entice some of the top coaches away from the South to use their talents in putting Liverpool back onto the table tennis map, or at the least a little higher up the local League table.

Yours faithfully,

John O'Sullivan  
(Mossley Hill T.T.C.)

Dear Sir,

I see that once again there is activity amongst certain prominent persons with regard to the Liverpool Table Tennis League having its own Headquarters. In my opinion this is an excellent idea and everyone in the League can derive benefit from an H.Q.

There are many older houses, reasonably central, available at not such great expenditure and such a building could provide practice, coaching and match facilities as well as a social side, i.e. Canteen, Lounge, T.V. and possibly League Dances etc. Also, of course, our

Committee would not have to beg and borrow rooms for meetings.

I am not sure of the working economics, but I would imagine that 6d. or 1/- per player registration fee would be well on the way.

Why the earlier proposition failed escapes me and this time I hope the idea gains the support it deserves. It's certainly got mine. It's about time Liverpool T.T. got a shot in the arm and this could be it.

Yours sincerely,

Peter D'Arcy (Bohemians T.T.C.)

Dear Sir,

Over the past few seasons an unhealthy aspect of our game in Liverpool has been the constant appearance of top class teams in the lower divisions.

The causes of this have been varied—legitimate signings which have strengthened teams—losses of clubrooms—and sundry other reasons.

I contend that competition in all divisions should be as equal as the Management can make it, and rules and regulations should not be so strict as to ensure that a reasonable first division side should play in the fourth division while a poor fourth division team is forced to play in the third division etc.

There is no fun (apart from medal hunting) in a team walking through opponents every week, and certainly no fun in being on the receiving end of these thrashings. More important still is that budding Barnes' may have their enthusiasm dampened by these, and teams who feel that they are in with a reasonable chance find that they are playing for a runners-up place (Wot! No medals!) with the championship settled from the first game of the season.

Healthy competition must be found for all. Surely this season has brought the matter to a head, and with the support of my club I am lobbying a proposal—That the Management Committee have at

*Continued on Page 6.*

## Letters to the Editor - continued

their discretion the power to promote a team if and when a vacancy shall arise.

There is no question of the Management going into a huddle to thrash out whether Palmerston 'A' or Crawfords 'C' should be promoted, but when a team is obviously too strong for its division, then action should be taken in the interests of the team itself (fortunate perhaps to gain quick promotion), in the interests of the thirteen other sides in the division, and the interests of the League in general.

How do you feel on this matter?

Yours faithfully,

Jack Lamber (Eng. Electric)

## WEDDING BELLS . . .

Once again I have the privilege of voicing the whole-hearted good wishes of the entire Liverpool League to one of our colleagues, for on March 6th next, Miss Wendy Lewis of Liverpool Pirates is to be married to Mr. Campbell Jones.

In a letter to Jim Green, Ralph Gunnion sends best wishes to his friends in the Liverpool League. Ralph is in America at present on an exhibition tour with David Creamer, and I am sure that you would all wish me to extend your greetings to him via these columns.

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## THE LATE Mr. W. R. CRAFTER — A Tribute from The Chairman

IT is with profound regret that we record the sudden death of Mr. W. R. Crafter, and on behalf of all associated with the Liverpool League we extend our deepest sympathy to his widow, Ivy, also Bill and Judy in the sad loss which they have sustained.

"Renney", as he was affectionately known by the wide circle of friends which his friendly disposition earned for him, was at the time of his death one of the most highly respected members of the Management Committee, having served on that Body for many years. He was a most pleasant personality and the many and varied tasks which he undertook in the League's interests were executed with a spirit of cheerfulness and enthusiasm which typified his character. We shall miss his keen sense of humour and be poorer by the loss of his logical reasoning which he contributed to discussions at Committee meetings. His untimely passing leaves a void in our midst which will be difficult to fill.

Perhaps in paying this tribute to the memory of a colleague and friend I may be excused for quoting below the words of the Minister who conducted the funeral service, for these are I believe truly expressive of the sentiments we all share.

"We offer our thanks to God for having given us Renney Crafter and for the pleasure which has been ours to have known him."

Arthur E. Upton

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## DIVISIONAL REPORTS AND LEAGUE TABLES

### DIVISION 1 by Jim Green

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Liverpool YM . . . . .	14	14	0	0	115
Wav. Labour . . . . .	14	13	1	0	100
Rafters . . . . .	14	10	4	0	85
Wav. Lab. 'A' . . . . .	14	9	5	0	84
Cadwa . . . . .	14	7	5	2	78
Bohemians . . . . .	13	7	5	1	76
Linnets . . . . .	14	4	9	1	56
Lucem . . . . .	14	3	10	1	51
L'pool YM 'A' . . . . .	12	2	10	0	50
Pirates . . . . .	12	4	7	1	50
Oakhill . . . . .	14	4	10	0	37
Bohs. 'A' . . . . .	13	1	12	0	28

**E**VEN though Liverpool Y.M.C.A. are getting more firmly entrenched at the top of the table week by week, few would deny that this has been Wavertree Labour's season. To keep up a heavy pressure on the leaders with one team is more than most clubs can hope for, but to do it with two sides, both newly arrived in the 1st division, is something which in my memory has never occurred in this League before. It gives promise of great years ahead for the Labour Club, and since they have few players who have not been with the club during their long climb up the divisions, they deserve the highest praise. At the same time they have reached the Cup semi-final which will be played while this is at the printers, and the Y.M.C.A., despite starting as favourites, will not take them too lightly.

The Y.M.C.A. are having mixed fortunes, for while their 1st team tops the League, the 'A' team is dropping lower as time goes on. The loss of Skedge, Roy Smith and Cyril Bradshaw leaves them much weaker, but mainly these losses seem to have affected the confidence of the players left, for some of the sets lost have surprised all who know them. So after gaining 27 points from 3 matches, they now have 50 from 12. A most surprising drop. Yet it would be a brave man who would write them off this early.

Pirates are another puzzle. Strong at the outset, they were further

aided by the addition of the Anfield players, and there were many who forecast that they would be right up among the leaders, yet they don't seem to have "clicked". Looking at the line up of Norman Jones, Eric Davies, Alan Lawson, Maurice Oakes and Mal Wallace, few teams could justifiably count on a win, but they have been disappointing. However, here again, the players are such that they could finish the season with a winning run and lift themselves way up the table.

Bohemians, strengthened by the return of Bruce Cain and Vic Chesham are too far behind to seriously challenge the Y.M., but they have given the "A" team more hope by adding Joe Brierley, Frank Rooney and John Dalton. It seems too late for this to save them from relegation, and Oakhill are now favourites to accompany them, for both sides are a long way behind.

Cadwa, well up the table, could have finished higher at this stage but they have been bedevilled by last minute chasing round for reserves, some of whom have not been adequate, and few would like to change places with Bill Crafter in his struggle to field an adequate side each week. His job is about as little to be envied as that of Keith Rawlinson turning out Bohemians teams. However this year has established McPherson in this division, and looking round there are many new players of whom we shall see more year by year—much younger than for years past. Owens, Tolson, Chambers and others from Wavertree Labour, MacPherson, Jones (Cadwa), Burrows and Dean (Linnets) and reserves Harper, Ferris, Wass and Judy Crafter have all shown well enough that they will be established in this sphere for years to come. Others who have played for some seasons like Bert Kewley, Ron Blackmore, Tony Green, Gordon Birch and Bruce Cain all help to lower the average age, which is the best thing which could happen.

**DIVISION 2A** by Jimmy Bowden

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Beauclair . . . .	16	15	0	1	125
Waterloo Park . .	17	13	2	2	112
Linacre . . . . .	16	11	3	2	108
Rafters 'A' . . .	15	10	4	1	104
Pirates 'A' . . . .	15	9	4	2	101
Cadwa 'A' . . . . .	15	9	4	2	77
Colonsay . . . . .	17	5	8	4	77
L'pool Jewish . .	16	4	7	5	75
Crawfords 'A' . .	17	5	9	3	66
Coll. of Tech. . .	17	4	12	1	64
Bath Street 'A' .	15	3	8	4	62
English Elec. . .	16	2	9	5	61
L.P.A.S. 'A' . . .	16	3	9	4	56
L'pool P.O. . . . .	14	0	14	0	22

ALL over bar the shouting at the top and bottom, or so it looks at present. Beauclair have a commanding lead at the top while Liverpool P.O. look to be doomed to relegation. The battle among the teams to accompany these two to their respective spheres continues, and the result remains to be seen, for the runners-up spot in the table has changed hands so many times that at present it is quite impossible to make a forecast—rather more a wild guess! As for the team to be relegated, it rather looks like being either L.P.A.S. "A" or College of Technology, who have not enjoyed the same success as last season even though Graham Platt at No. 1 is a very consistent performer. In successive weeks, though the team suffered 2-8 defeats, he has won both of his sets.

Waterloo Park kept themselves in the running for promotion with a fine win over Pirates "A", thanks to a double from Ken Readitt, and with each of the team adding one they pulled off a good 6-4 win.

L.P.A.S. "A" have had a lean time so far but in the second half they have picked up a few extra sets thanks to Geoff Nelson and John Taylor who seem to be running into form in their efforts to stave off the relegation bogey. English Electric are the division's draw champions having drawn six of their fifteen matches.

Chris Humphreys must surely be one of the most sporting players in the League. Taking his game very

seriously, he was seen recently clapping his opponent at the end of a good rally between them. A thing seldom or never seen these days.

Congratulations to Frank Murphy (Rafters "A") on his engagement. Here's hoping his table tennis will now improve!

I've heard of teams playing short. But never before have I heard of players refusing to play when called upon to do so by the opposing Captain as was the case when Cadwa "A" visited Linacre. Three of the Cadwa players forfeited their sets thus, so presenting to Linacre three points which may prove more than valuable in their hunt for promotion.

Beauclair and Pirates "A", both fielding their strongest teams had a battle royal in their League match, the result going to Beauclair 6-4. Six of the ten sets were decided in the third, Beauclair winning their six at the top (Bobby Owen 2, Cyril Bradshaw 2 and Brian Pardy 1). Brian suffered his first League defeat of the season at the hand of George Sanders 20-22 in the 3rd. Peter Rix got the 6th, beating J. Brannigan.

**DIVISION 2B** by John O'Sullivan

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Wav. Lab. 'B' . .	17	17	0	0	145
Bath Street . . .	16	14	2	0	120
University . . . .	17	10	5	2	105
L.P.A.S. . . . . .	16	12	4	0	104
Mossley Hill . .	17	10	5	2	99
Linnets 'A' . . .	16	8	3	5	95
Linnets 'B' . . .	14	8	4	2	84
Crawfords . . . .	16	6	8	2	73
St. Edwards . . .	16	6	8	2	71
L'pool YM 'B' . .	16	3	10	3	53
L'pool Jew. 'A' .	17	2	14	1	53
Cadwa 'B' . . . .	17	2	14	1	50
Bootle Y.M. . . .	16	2	12	2	44
Bohs. 'B' . . . . .	15	2	13	0	34

**WAVERTREE LABOUR** go marching on and are now beginning to look unbeatable in this division. With 145 points from 17 games they seem to be reaping more points per match as the season progresses. I see that Norman Chaloner has been introduced into the team and is now playing at No. 1. Although his initial appears to



alter from match to match, his performance doesn't, as Reg Gray of L.P.A.S. will testify after their set at Wavertree. With Ted Morris playing at No. 2 the side shows an impressive line-up which I don't doubt will make their mark in the 1st Division next season.

Although Bath Street who are placed 2nd, are not a mile behind Wavertree, I cannot see them narrowing the gap, especially after conceding a 10-0 walk-over to Linnets "A". This seems rather a pity when they have players like John Coveney, who, by my reckoning has lost only 2 sets out of 28—one to Ted Morris and the other to Don Gauld (L.P.A.S.).

St. Edwards started the season with a bang, lying 4th after the first 5 matches, but have slipped further down the table progressively each week thereafter. When they met Bohemians "B" at St. Edwards they were defeated 3-7. Whilst not wishing to detract from the glory of Bohs, it does appear that the whole of the St. Edwards team have gone right off form at the same time.

The University, who have been fairly stationary about the 5-6 mark all year will no doubt end up well placed, especially if we see more of Gordon Excell. It seems a great pity that a player of his ability has only been able to turn out for one match.

Whenever the "Digest" is published I usually find that at my next League match somebody will come up to me and say "Why didn't you mention that game between Bill Bloggs and Joe Soap, when Joe beat Bill with a let service at 35-33 in the third?" (Although the names are fictitious the conversation is not.) Well, I can't be present at every match, and if you think that there is some item of general interest which should be reported in the "Digest", please notify me with the details. Otherwise I never know they happen.

To prevent any further enquiries, I do not know either the address or the phone number of the girl in the Louis Hoffman advert (and if

he did, John wouldn't be mug enough to tell everyone. He'd keep it to himself.—Editor).

DIVISION 3A	by Mabel Francis				
	P	W	L	D	Pts
Sefton General	15	13	1	1	114
Crawfords 'B'	15	9	3	3	96
Wav. Lab. 'C'	12	10	1	1	92
Oakhill 'A' . . . .	14	7	4	3	89
Priates 'B' . . . .	14	9	5	0	82
Trinity . . . . .	13	8	3	2	81
Stanley House	15	5	6	4	76
L'pool Jew. 'B'	13	7	4	2	76
St. Mary's Coll.	12	4	4	4	63
Eng. Elec. 'B'	15	1	12	2	42
Bath St. 'C' . . .	14	1	10	3	35
Beauclair 'B' . .	14	1	12	1	26
Domestic Miss	10	0	10	0	8

**A**FTER three consecutive 8-2 victories, Wavertree Labour "C" came crashing down to a 2-8 defeat at the hands of Oakhill "A" who seem determined not to be left out of the running. In this match John Molyneux suffered his first League defeat of the season via Matt Hamill, and just won his other set 22/20 in the third over Bob Platt. Wavertree's latest recruit (due to demotion) is Eddie Birch. He played in their match v. Sefton and as our last "Digest" was being posted to us were in the process of giving Sefton their first taste of defeat—that at 8-2 (seeming a favourite score of Wavertree's). As Sefton had their full team out, Bill Davies, George Kettle and Brian Cookson each suffered his first double defeat. Following this onslaught, they then proceeded to thrash Crawfords "B" 10-0 in their outstanding match, and their deficit is now well made up. Quite a few battles seem to be forthcoming.

Stanley House, Liverpool Jewish together with Pirates "B" and St. Mary's seem content to hover midway in the table. Maghull have jumped a number of places and can possibly finish higher yet.

But the definite pattern in this division is now clear and consists of 4 top, 5 middle, and 4 bottom teams. Just take a look at the three League tables thus far. The last four are obviously going to finish

in that order. Bath Street "C" with their latest efforts to help them, are going all out to make sure that they do not get relegated. And it seems sure that nothing is to be settled at the top of the table until the last matches are played. Partly due to recent unexpected results, and partly to the fact that there may still be more surprises to come.

Here are a few personal records (League only):—

J. Hankin (Maghull) p.22, w.21;  
 J. Molyneux (Wav. Lab.) p.22, w.21;  
 S. Harvey (Jewish) p.22, w.16;  
 W. Davies (Sefton) p.26, w.21;  
 M. Francis (Crawfords) p.28, w.25;  
 J. Delamere (St. Mary's) p.20, w.18;  
 A. Southall (Pirates) p.18, w.13;  
 A. Lyn (Stanley House) p.20, w.15.

PLEASE get any outstanding matches at least arranged as soon as possible. This applies especially to Domestic Mission.

#### DIVISION 3B by Jack Lambert

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Linnets 'C' . . . . .	14	14	0	0	118
Pirates 'C' . . . . .	13	11	1	1	91
Orrell . . . . .	15	8	5	2	88
Beauclair 'A' . . . . .	15	8	5	2	82
Eng. Elec. 'A' . . . . .	12	8	2	2	79
Lowlands . . . . .	15	6	6	3	77
Linnets 'D' . . . . .	15	5	6	4	72
Bath Street 'B' . . . . .	13	7	4	2	70
Rafters 'B' . . . . .	13	3	7	3	55
L.P.A.S. 'B' . . . . .	14	3	11	0	54
Lussac . . . . .	15	3	9	3	54
Bohs. 'C' . . . . .	13	1	12	0	26
Eng. Elec. 'D' . . . . .	11	1	10	0	23

**M**ANY familiar names were at the top of the scoring lists for their teams at the half-way stage—Barbara Taylor, Pat Brown, John McKim, George Moon and Ray Callaghan, Jock Catterson, Tom Bunner, Les French, Gerry Brint, Ken Foulkes, Ernie Sturgess and Fred Winstanley. Ken Foulkes (Linnets) is the only undefeated No. 1 in the division to date. It will be interesting to find if there is anyone to lower his colours before the season ends.

Despite being on the receiving end of some terrible thrashings, English Electric "D" had the distinction of being the only side to

field the same five players every week. Nice work!

Three good wins for Bath Street over Beauclair, Lowlands and Orrell. An old "foe" had a big hand in all of them—Cyril Smith (with six sets) with Barbara Taylor and Arthur Roberts in a good supporting role. Their win over Orrell must be the outstanding result of the season. And thanks mainly to Stevenson, Orrell gave Linnets "C" one of their toughest games to date.

A first win for Bohemians "C" over Rafters. Another "semi-retired" in Ken Jones turned out and won his two. He joins our honours list of Cyril Smith, Jim Green, Jack McCaig, Eric Smitton and W. Hardcastle, while at the opposite end of the age scale Bohs have a young man with a good eye for a kill in Murgatroyd.

Frank Anderson (Lussac) and Eddie Johnson (Linnets "D") were mainly responsible for the Lussac-Linnets "D" draw, each winning his 2 sets. Bohs "C" did well also to take three sets from the much-strengthened Beauclair who, with Inge and Hardcastle at 1 and 2 look a pretty good outfit. Lowlands do not appear to be as strong as they were in the first half and lost to the Police 6-4, thanks to a Catterson double. Reg Foster and Harry Reynolds took the honours in the Linnets "D"-Rafters "C" draw.

But perhaps the outstanding card of the month shows a Linnets "C" walk-over from Liverpool Pirates "C".

I have heard praise for Peter Rix's suggestion on four a side. I must support it as I suggested it to the Management just a year ago.

#### DIVISION 4A by Glynn Hughes

	P	W	L	D	Pts
12/50 . . . . .	16	16	0	0	139
Colonsay 'A' . . . . .	15	14	1	0	134
University 'A' . . . . .	16	13	3	0	123
Wav. Lab. 'D' . . . . .	15	11	4	0	105
Oakhill 'B' . . . . .	15	7	6	2	75
Coll. of Tech 'A' . . . . .	14	7	6	1	67
Orrell 'A' . . . . .	15	5	7	3	62
Crawfords 'C' . . . . .	13	5	8	0	51
Linnets 'F' . . . . .	14	2	12	0	38
Eng. Elec. 'C' . . . . .	12	2	10	0	36
L.Y. C.A. . . . .	10	3	6	1	34
Palmerston 'A' . . . . .	13	2	10	1	30
Bradstones 'A' . . . . .	14	1	13	0	16

**F**ROM the outset of the season it has been obvious that either Colonsay "A" or 12/50 would win the division with the other in second place, and at present 12/50 are a mere five points ahead of Colonsay. With University "A" 3rd and Wavertree Labour "D" 4th the top four places are filled. There is always the possibility of a re-shuffle among these four, but it is a remote one. All four sides are far and away better than the remainder of the division.

Looking at some of the recent scores it is particularly interesting to note that Crawfords "C", who have not been doing exceptionally well so far, have been able to pick up 20 points from two walk over matches against Palmerston "A" and Bradstones "A" and these points should stand them in good stead.

Since the New Year, L.Y.C.A. have had a good run. Newcomers Norman Carter, Ron Hughes and Len Spencer have been the backbone of wins over Linnets "F" 9-1 and English Electric "C" 6-4. Orrell "A", who at the best of times consists mainly of ladies have been getting extremely good results lately, and Gordon Kirk (ex Bath Street "A") their No. 1 has been a tower of strength and seems to have inspired the remainder of the side.

University "A", one of the leading four, had slightly better fortune in their return game with 12/50, and although they went down 2-8 T. Roberts and D. Higginbottom managed to get one set apiece. No doubt this was an improvement on the 10-0 defeat suffered at the hands of 12/50 earlier in the season, and the 2 points involved may well prove more than valuable to 12/50 in their struggle with Colonsay for the top spot. When sides are as close as are these two every single set might turn the scale.

Dwelling for a moment on the progress of the fair sex in the division, Celia Buckles (English Electric) making her second appearance of the season, managed to beat J. Lowe (Orrell) 22/20, 21/11, conceding the other to Lil Upton 21/13, 14/21, 21/15. A good performance for this young lady, who

shows a great improvement on her form of last year.

I hope that we shall see a large entry for the Liverpool "Closed" from this division. In addition to the main events there is once again the Restricted Singles, from which all players who have played more than 25% of their matches in the 1st and 2nd divisions are excluded. This gives our players the chance to achieve something away from the 'stars' of the League.

#### DIVISION 4B

by Jim Green

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Pirates 'D' . . .	14	14	0	0	118
Palmerston . . .	17	13	2	2	118
British Rlys. . .	15	12	2	1	109
University 'B' . .	17	8	5	4	104
Colonsay 'B' . . .	16	9	6	1	94
Mossley Hill 'A' .	15	7	6	2	81
Edge Hill . . . . .	17	6	10	1	68
Lowlands 'A' . . .	16	5	10	1	66
Stanley Hse 'A' .	14	5	7	2	56
Linnets 'E' . . . .	14	3	9	2	54
Pirates 'E' . . . .	12	4	7	1	52
St. Mary's 'A' . .	13	4	7	2	52
Bradstones . . . .	15	3	12	0	39
Eng. Elec. 'E' . .	13	1	11	1	28

**P**IRATES "D" now head the table with three matches in hand over Palmerston and with a team composed from Holland, Tyler Connell, Dorfman, Goodman and Dawn Lewis, and with several strong reserves, are good enough to top a higher division than this one. In fact this side has won every League match quite comfortably, only losing once in the Forrest Cup to 12/50 from 4A, and having a fright against Linnets "E" earlier in the Cup by being held to a draw. British Railways are in third position, nine points behind Pirates "D" and Palmerston.

After the top three, who are well out in front of the field, come a small group including University "B", Colonsay "B" and Mossley Hill "A", who should soon be joined by Pirates "E". These are all sound teams, but against the big guns of the leading three they are just that bit behind which makes the difference.

Edge Hill can look forward to far better fortune next season, for their results have improved vastly since they played their first match. Their W. Rae had a good win over Mal Holland (Pirates "D"), and I venture to say that in the early part of the season this would have been beyond him. Quite confidently I expect to see them higher next year.

With 24 points from their first 8 matches, Linnets "E" have added a further 20 from the next four, and are starting to climb the table, and their latest result, a draw with Palmerston, is an encouraging sign of things to come. The addition of Eddie Johnson and Dave Blake has made a great difference to the team, who now hope to climb well away from the foot.

The three girls of English Electric, Val Ball, Lynn McWilliam and Celia Buckles, have won a number of sets this year, and have fared better than they did in the weaker Women's Division of last season. Their improvement is very marked, and it is to be hoped that next year will find them even better than this.

It is quite remarkable how very many matches are outstanding in this division—the highest number throughout the League, and after last month's warning from the Fixture Secretary, clubs will have to guard against losing matches as walk-overs at the end of the season. In view of these outstanding games I once again draw your attention to the warning given that **NO MATCHES MAY BE PLAYED AFTER FRIDAY, 10th APRIL**, and that on that date such matches will be awarded to the away teams 10-0. It would be bad luck if this were to affect the leading positions. So, Secretaries, take heed.

## WOMEN'S DIVISION

by Amy Bell

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Crawfords . . . . .	11	9	1	1	86
Cadwa . . . . .	10	9	1	0	84
Linnets . . . . .	12	9	3	0	83
Rafters . . . . .	10	7	2	1	70
Pirates . . . . .	12	6	6	0	61
Linnets 'A' . . . . .	11	6	5	0	59
Bohemians . . . . .	9	4	5	0	50
Rafters 'A' . . . . .	8	1	6	1	21
Lussac . . . . .	12	2	10	0	16
Pirates 'A' . . . . .	7	0	6	1	11
Telecomms . . . . .	9	0	9	0	9

AS I write these notes, Crawfords are at the top of the division with the very slender lead of 2 points over Cadwa, but Cadwa have a game in hand which may be instrumental in putting them back above Crawfords. The championship seems to have become purely a battle between these two sides, for Linnets in 3rd place have played 1 more than Crawfords and 2 more than Cadwa, so by the time these have been levelled out the lead must be increased.

Rafters, although a strong team, must be counted out of the hunt at present, but who knows what will happen if the two leaders slip.

A little spice is added to this struggle for top spot, for the two teams have to meet at Beauclair in the Cup semi-final on Monday, 15th March, the second semi-final between Pirates "A" and Linnets "A" being played the evening following (March 16th) at Crawfords. Linnets "A" recently beat the Pirates "A" team in the League 9-1, but it is more than possible that Pirates will bring back some of their strongest girls from the mixed divisions for the occasion. Although lying next to bottom at present the Pirates "A" team have several matches outstanding and they should finish a

few places higher. Telecomms have had to postpone a few matches also due to three of their team being transferred temporarily out of town, but I have no doubt that they will pull these up very quickly as soon as the girls are available again.

Talking point of the season is the gradual loss of players to the mixed divisions, and the consequent reduction of teams in our division. One idea which has been suggested and which seems to find general approval among the girls is that any woman playing in the mixed division **must** play an equal number of matches in the Women's division. There are many women playing only in the mixed, and although nobody wants to prevent them from

doing so, we feel that they should give some support to their own sex. Something must be done if the Women's division is to survive. Year by year more and more desert this division, and one wonders whether or not the whole division should be wrapped up with **all** girls playing in mixed teams. This is the last thing that I want, and that is the opinion of most who play in girls teams, but the position is getting so serious now that some strong action must be taken. I suggest that any decision should be taken first by the women's teams, then put to the Management Committee or A.G.M.

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## LETTER

43-45 Lark Lane,  
Liverpool 17.

The Editor, Table Tennis Digest.

Dear Sir,

In reply to the suggestion put forward by Peter Rix in last month's issue, with regard to teams of four-a-side, 8 singles and 2 doubles.

This suggestion has been made periodically over many years, and at first sight is a great idea, but there are certain points against it, which I would like to put to the readers:—

1. While little trouble would be experienced by the smaller clubs, those with 4 or more League teams would be obliged to enter one or more teams in order to allow the same number of their players League play. 20 players of today, playing in four teams, would then constitute five teams of four, and the larger the club, the larger the quantity of teams.

The tendency of today is for fewer, but larger clubs, and to alter the set-up in this way **must** provide more headaches for Secretaries, who are already bedevilled by night school, shift work etc., on whom would fall the unhappy job of sorting out teams.

2. Peter, whose opinions and suggestions are invariably interesting, was the original proposer of the present "points system" in an article some two years ago. One of his main points was that "table tennis is an individual game" and that as such sets should count as individual points. Doubles do not constitute an individual game, but rather a team game, so if this four-a-side were introduced, surely a reversion to the old points system must then apply.

3. When we had two active Women's divisions, this suggested system of play was introduced to promote interest. The result is one, half-full Women's division of decidedly apathetic players. In addition the Wirral League started off by introducing this same form of match play, and after a short life are barely surviving, so perhaps this style of playing matches is not quite so successful after all.

4. This proposed system would go **against** many people. As club Secretary I have found that a genuine request for a player to arrive late is very seldom refused, but if that player had to play three sets after arrival instead of two, many opposing Secretaries would feel obliged to refuse such permission in the interests of certain of their own players who may, equally genuinely, have to leave early.

We can all think up reasons for and against any proposal, but, in order to provide an extra set per match per player, to start another complete re-organisation of the whole League structure seems a somewhat silly thing to me. For, however it may seem to Peter, there **would** be a large jump in the number of teams entered per club, and extra divisions would thus be created.

The Fixture Secretary will confirm that there are a large number of matches still to be played which have been postponed for one reason or another. Some clubs are having great difficulty in staging their home matches thus postponed, and, if they are forced to enter extra teams they will have less chance of fulfilling their commitments in the future, so that, instead of postponements, there will undoubtedly be a spate of 10-0 walk-overs claimed, **simply because there are no free dates.**

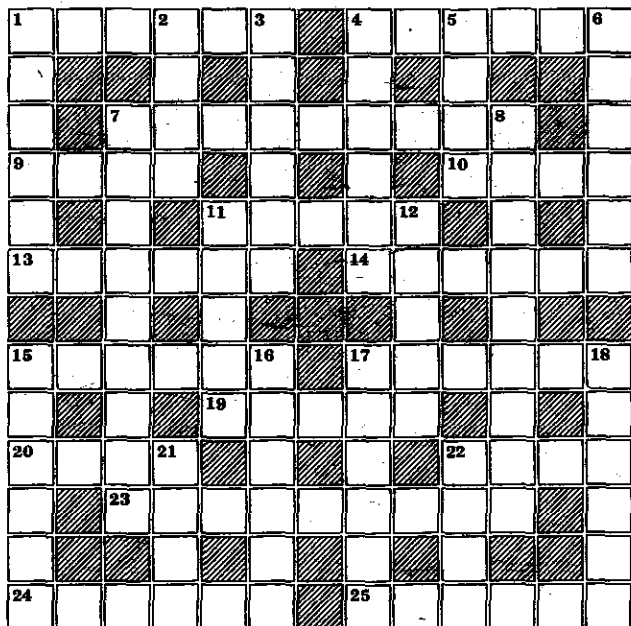
Yours faithfully,

Jim Green,

Linnets & Aigburth T.T.C.

# CROSSWORD

by JOHN LEESON



## CLUES ACROSS

1. One quarter of a number one four (6).
4. This finalist didn't win (6).
7. Is seen about event (9).
9. This College is backward (4).
10. Gaseous Element (4).
11. Hard portion of a chaste elephant (5).
13. "Radio Times" without the measure of duration (6).
14. They come from the highland (6).
15. I disturbed the cleaners to get seating accommodation (6).
17. Cheats in a different way (6).
19. A small proportion of Germans say "Achtung". (5).
20. A compound of Sodium (4).
22. Victuals or provisions sought by begging (4).
23. Would the boss like this bird on his knee? (9).
24. Reverberated (6).
25. Used on the land (6).

## CLUES DOWN

1. Daughter of James II in the British Railways (6).
2. All families have one (4).
3. Backward street follows the end of Seven (6).
4. Means of Communication (6).
5. It has to be this to be believed (4).
6. Antrim is near this causeway (6).
7. These old boys are in 2b (2 & 7).
8. If it isn't this, it need not be done (9).
11. The first letter taken from a broken Rosary, becomes a form of apology (5).
12. Many hands make this work (5).
15. Some of the forecast let us down (6).
16. Consecrated to a religious purpose (6).
17. A section of parachute structure (6).
18. Hire, for example (6).
21. Small island in the Baltic near Denmark (4).
22. Head of Preying Mantis (4).

(Solution next month.)