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**TABLE
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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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November, 1965

No. 2

Editorial

THE MERSEYSIDE OPEN.

Once again the Merseyside Open Tournament has come and gone, and as usual the time has come for the assessment to be made as to how successful it has been.

The general conclusion has been that, all in all, it has been well worth while and a credit to the Organisers. However, as you must surely realise, there can never be enough helpers at such an event, and this year in particular, an extremely heavy burden was placed upon the shoulders of an annually shrinking number of these volunteers. So, on reading the magazine you will find various comments of different aspects of the Tournament, and will gather that any help is both necessary and welcome. After you have read the article on the subject by Brian Leeson, and realised that the same thing applies also to our Closed tournament, you will contact him, for as Tournament Referee he will be delighted about each offer of assistance.

YOUR LETTERS !!

Your Editorial Board are invariably pleased to have your comments on any topic connected with our sport, and whenever possible, space will be given to them. This month we had a large number of letters, and inevitably some of them have had to be left out. PLEASE do not let this deter you from writing, but I would ask you to try and let us have something new. Most of the correspondence we have had are on subjects we have had many times before, with no *new* slants. Mainly I refer to "Ranking Lists" and the "allocation of teams to divisions at the start of the season". The first has been hashed over many times before, and even one chaotic season was played with no lists at all (chaotic is the word!). And for the second, anyone attending the Handbook Meeting *knows* the tremendous difficulties attached to this job, with teams being withdrawn, new teams and clubs being entered to replace them, and finding that probably 20 per cent. of players have changed clubs during the summer! Therefore it is inevitable that some anomalies must arise, but these are neither deliberate, nor do they arise by reason of any lack of thought by those responsible. It is, at best both a thankless and difficult task. If you write on the subject, please try to put a new angle, for latterly we have had nothing new on the subject.

LAUGH, PLEASE!

In our last issue we endeavoured to introduce a little light relief in the form of an article written about "The Coach". Many members seemed to appreciate this little bit of comedy, but it does not seem to have been met with universal approval, and one remark was passed at the 'Open' finals that it was out-of-place, should have been omitted, and that the Coach concerned should not be allowed to take on pupils if that was his attitude! I feel sure that any further comment from me would be equally as ludicrous. Moreover, I can assure you that the "Ayes" have it, and that any article in similar vein forthcoming in the future will be given very favourable attention.

EDITOR.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

By J. R. GREEN

A Fairly Good Start!

THE teams have had a reasonably good opening to the season, and the signs are that we shall not be bottom of any divisions this season (touching wood). The Men's 1st team opened at Liverpool YMCA with a 0-10 defeat. The team of Peter D'Arcy, Ron Jones and Roy Jones played well, and most of the spectators thought them good enough to have taken three sets. But 10-0 is on the records which is where it counts! Next match, away to Mid-Cheshire they drew 5-5, D'Arcy and Roy Jones each taking 2 and Ron Jones 1. (We lost this one 3-7 at home last season). Roy Jones went down 22-20 in the 3rd to Mike Johns! Oh, for those two elusive points against a player of that calibre! Then, three days later they went to Salford in the 2nd round of the Wilmott Cup and won 5-1. Again D'Arcy won 2, Roy Jones 2, Ron Jones 1. Quite an encouraging start!

The Men's "A" team opened with a 7-3 win against Chester, away, Gordon Birch and Eddie Clein 3 each and to get the doubles; Tony Green, a last-minute stand-in for an injured Eddie Moran lost three—mainly due to nerves. This was followed up by a 4-6 loss to Preston 1st team at English Electric. Again Gordon Birch got his 3, and Eddie Clein got 1. Ed Moran, seemingly stiff and not yet over his injuries lost all three and the doubles went to Preston mainly due to an amazing lapse of form by Birch.

The Ladies division of last year has been split into two, so this season our two teams have only five matches each, one being against each other. So, as yet the first team have

played only one match v. Wirral, away, which resulted in a draw. Judy Crafter had one of "those" nights, and managed to take 1 only, losing to Reg Royle and Barbara Cain. Maureen Coe (Beauclair) won two, losing only to Reg Royle and Jean Reynolds won 1. Together Judy and Maureen won the doubles. The next match v. Manchester on Nov. 19th was called off at the last minute by Manchester because one of their players was on 'County' duty. The "A" team have played twice, against Stockport away, then v. Wirral at home (L.P.A.S.). Marie Lupton won the sole set in a 1-0 loss v. Stockport, though 4 other sets went to three and the merest trace of luck would have seen us win a couple more. Against Wirral, Marie won our only two sets again, this time beating both Reg Royle and Barbara Cain, so she has made a most impressive debut. Betty Black and Barbara Horsley still await their first wins.

Once again the Youth team is going great guns. After winning the division last season we could afford to feel fairly confident, especially with all of the team still eligible. However, it was decided that the team would be stronger by the introduction of Ian Burrows, so with Rod McPherson and Eddie Birch he made up the team which has won the two first matches very decisively: v. Wigan 8-2, and v. Crewe (away) 10-0. The only two sets lost were by McPherson, and we might be forgiven for feeling fairly confident of another successful season for the Youths. Burrows has improved tremendously since last year, and if this improvement con-

The Merseyside Tournament 1965

THE Tournament this year attracted far more entries than was ever anticipated and it was necessary to refuse between two and three dozen late requests for forms. Unfortunately this huge entry did not include a big increase in the local entry and, although it was necessary to have some events played on Friday evening, it was rather disappointing not to have more support from our own Liverpool League players.

The holder of the Men's Singles title, Jeff Ingber, was unable to be present, but there was plenty of top-class competition in this event. The eventual finalists, O. B. Haslam, Nationally ranked at number 12, and Kevin Forshaw, the Lancashire County player from Manchester, had many exciting duels on their way to the Final. Haslam's toughest game was in the second round, against Roy Morley of Gloucester, but then he had convincing wins over David Stanley, Mike Symonds (ranked 8 Nationally) and Mike Johns before taking the title, in three games, from Forshaw. The Manchester player had perhaps a more difficult road. He had to eliminate Maurice Billington, Alan Hydes, who won the North of England title, Laurie Landry, Peter Duncombe and Derek Basden, recently ranked at 7 in the National chart.

Other results which caused some surprise included Mike Johns' thrashing of the National number 6, Ralph Gunnion 21-12, 21-13, and of local interest, Gordon Birch's great win over B. Farnworth 21-9, 21-14.

The Women's Singles title was

retained for a second year by Pauline Martin, who did not lose a game in any of her matches. Her defeated opponents included Judy Crafter, in the Quarter-Finals, and Jaqueline Canham in the Semi-Final. Beverley Sayer, the other finalist, had almost as easy a path to the Final, her most difficult match being against Maureen Heppell in the Quarter Final. She defeated Cynthia Duncombe in the Semi-Final, but then found Pauline Martin just too good for her, although one game did go to deuce.

The Men's Doubles event was almost a walk-over for the top seeded pair, Alan Hydes and Laurie Landry, whose games were all won in two straight. I was very pleased to note however that Peter D'Arcy and Gordon Birch made excellent progress in this event, including a splendid win over Maurice Billington and Mike Johns, before going down fighting to David Bevan and Derek Wall.

Pauline Martin teamed up with Jackie Canham to take the Women's Doubles prize from Cynthia Duncombe and Leslie Proudlock, while in the Mixed she managed to retain her title with George Livesey, altho' Maurice Billington and Jackie Canham came within two points of winning this event in the Final.

The Boys' title went as expected to Alan Hydes, though he was taken to three games by the second seed, Brian Burn, in the Final, while Maureen Heppell strolled through the Girls' event without any bother. Her father completed a family double by winning the Veterans' event in two straight from J. K. Kennerley.

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Assistance at Tournaments

—By Brian Leeson.

The Merseyside Open Tournament 1965 has now been completed. Already preparations are under way for our own Liverpool Closed which will take place in March/April 1966. But I wonder, when the time comes round, how many members of the League will voluntarily offer their services to assist in the running of their own Tournament. All members of the Management Committee have important duties to perform during the year, and especially so at Tournament time. But the Tournament cannot be run by Committee members alone. Many extra assistants must be recruited to help, and without this help, the organisation would be a complete flop.

As Referee and Tournament Secretary for the past few years, I have become accustomed to seeing the same familiar faces at our Tournaments, always willing to assist in any way possible and, of course, I'm very grateful to these friends for their continued help. I feel, however, that more help should be available and I'm sure that somewhere amongst our clubs there are people who would be willing and able to give this necessary and extra help. The present organisers cannot go in forever and I think it is about time some new faces were seen on these occasions, people willing to learn the intricacies of Tournament management.

There are many ways in which help would be appreciated. One job, for instance, which has to be done is writing up the results of games on the wall charts—simple enough for one person to do. Another job, which is really important, is acting as a table-minder. Here you simply have to watch the games on two or three tables and, when you see that a game has finished, indicate this to the Platform by holding up a card. This helps the Platform Staff

to know when a table is vacant and so the next game can be called on with the minimum of delay.

Perhaps you could help by being the go-between from the Platform to the Tables with the score cards and by bringing back the result of the finished game.

One big headache at Tournaments is finding volunteer umpires. Altho' the losing player is expected to umpire the next game at that table, an awkward situation sometimes arises when the defeated player refuses to help in this way and a volunteer has to be found. It has been suggested to me that it might be possible to recruit a squad of umpires to help in our Tournaments, but I think that is really hoping for too much. I must have a panel of reliable umpires to take charge of the Finals, however, and again there may be some unknowns in the League who could offer their services in this way.

I could also spotlight the catering side. Much help is needed here and the tasks of preparing food, serving tea and then, of course, the washing up, must be done by somebody.

There are many other small, seemingly insignificant jobs which must be done to ensure a successful Tournament and all these jobs need people to perform them. **COULD YOU HELP?** Would you be willing to lend a hand, even for a short time during our Tournament? If you feel that there is something you could do, no matter how small, even if you could only stay for half an hour, I would indeed be very pleased to hear from you. I'm sure there are many of you reading this article who *could* help, so please get in touch with me and contribute something to the running of your own Tournament. I'm sure you would enjoy it, and your help would be much appreciated.

WAVERTREE LABOUR changed their match night for the "B" and "C" teams at the Handbook Meeting. Since then some people turn up one night, others another, and nobody, least of all the poor members of Wavertree Labour know just where they are working. Once again, **here is the amendment** for your handbook:

WAVERTREE LABOUR "B" team and "C" team—match night changed to WEDNESDAY (from Tuesday). Any team from now on which arrives on any other evening might find that the match is claimed. The Club do not wish to do this, but will soon have to start it in self-defence.

EUROPE CALLING

—By George R. Yates.

APPETITES for this season's European Championships were truly whetted on Saturday, October 2nd when, from Ferranti's Social Club, Hollinwood, the B.B.C. relayed snatches of the England v. Sweden international.

Chief charmer of an otherwise small but discerning internal gathering was the visitor's No. 1, Hans Alser, whose play was a delight to watch as indeed was that of our own Brian Wright of Middlesex.

Throw in the current holder of the European men's singles title, Kjell Johansson, and the two flaxen haired Swedish maids, Eva Johansson and Lena Runstrom and there one had a fractional preview of what will be on offer at Wembley's Empire Pool and Sports Arena from April 13—20.

As for the cup final in the nearby stadium the European championships should be the Mecca for all lovers of table tennis if only to absorb the atmosphere, pageantry and colour of such an event.

Why not then sally forth from your usual habitats of schoolroom dust bowls and away from the stale odours of long fried dinners that permeate the atmosphere of works' canteens which normally provide the setting for our game at club level.

Go and see what Europe has to offer in the country's premier arena whilst sitting back in the plush comfort of elevated seating.

Not since the World Championships of season 1953-54 have the English Association undertaken such a project as this one with an estimated expenditure of £17,000 like some vulture hovering over the oft-pecked cranium of F.T.T.A. treasurer Tom Blunn.

At Wembley one will be able to see precisely what the national council can do when it comes to organisation. There too could be stifled the moans against what might have been thought an inanimate body by those whose backyard walls are bricked high.

Come then, if only for a day, to watch, to absorb and, if you like, to criticise—but come. Let the nations gather, East and West alike but amongst them let there be an

accent that snacks of the Mersey for the show would not be complete without a Scouser.

To me has)been given the role of Northern Press Liaison Officer and in that capacity I was delighted to accept Jim Green's suggestion to bring the championships to your notice via the medium of the Digest.

Each month the latest news and progress report will be afforded readers of the Table Tennis magazine but should you not subscribe to that admirable publication I know you do to this as a registered member of the Liverpool and District League.

For your further information then the championships commence on Wednesday, April 13, with the team events, the finals of which will take place on Saturday evening, April 16.

Monday, April 18, will see the start of the individual events and the finals of these will coincide with the grand finale on Wednesday, April 20.

To satisfy early demand it has been decided to put tickets on sale to Leagues at a discount of 12½% on all orders of £5 and over placed by December 31.

After that date they will be made available to the general public. Prices are as follows for the two final nights:—

30/-, 21/-, 15/-, 10/6d. and 6/-.

Admission otherwise will be by daily rover tickets at 7/6d. or 5/-, dependent on time of arrival.

Your secretary, John McKim, will doubtless serve your requirements and you have his address and phone number. Need I say more?

To date entries have been received from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany D.T.T.B., Germany D.T.T.V., Guernsey, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Jersey, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Sweden, U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia.

In addition replies are still awaited from Italy, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, Switzerland and Wales plus the Malta Association who wish to enter if admitted in time to membership of the European Table Tennis Union.

Honorary Organiser of the whole show is Conrad Jaschke of Kent who will have George White as the Referee.

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A special offer allowing 12½% discount on tickets bought through your League secretary expires on December 31. In order to avoid the Xmas and New Year rush I shall be sending the order from Liverpool on December 15th; orders for tickets should reach me before that date, complete with necessary cash (cheques and money orders made payable to me please) and stamped

addressed envelope.

If sufficient members are interested a coach can be arranged for the Saturday of the Championships, April 16, cost of this would be approx. 30/- each. Please let me know when booking tickets if you would take advantage of this if demand is sufficient to justify the booking of a coach.

European Championship ties and ladies scarves will be available early in December and I will be pleased to give further details to any members interested.

J. McKim

Personality Parade

—By Peter Rix.

RICHARD HOUGH (L.P.A.S.)

AMONG all the veterans still playing league table tennis today, our personality this month must be one of the most widely experienced in the Liverpool League, yet comparatively unsung as yet. He first became interested in table tennis when 12 years old, whilst he was a member of the Unity Boys' Club. There was no L.B.A. league in those days until eventually one was started when Dick was 15. His club side played a friendly match against Oakhill and Gus Reed (of Oakhill fame) joined Bellefield with Dick when both were 15 and they were successful in winning Division 4 with their team.

Dick graduated through the divisions to the 1st division where he played for several years until the war intervened. It was in 1939 that he joined the City Police, with whom he has completed 26 years service. During the war, table tennis was put in the background and it was not until 1946 that Dick again turned his attentions to the game, appearing for the L.P.A.S. Since that time he has played consistently at Nos. 1 and 2 in the 1st team, mostly in the 2nd division, but promoted this year to Division 1.

Apart from table tennis Dick is a dab-hand at snooker being a Police team member in the City's 1st Division for several years. Then he had tug-o-war and athletics to take

up any spare time he had. It is obvious only a bachelor could live a life like this!

During his many years of playing for the Police he has enjoyed considerable success in inter-Police table tennis spheres. The honours he has collected include the Men's and Mixed Doubles titles in the North West Counties (No. 1 Police Dist.) Championships, qualifying many times for National Championships which are held all over Britain annually. In fact he is reigning mixed doubles title holder for No. 1 District.

It is obvious that here we have in our midst a man of tremendous experience, which is certainly belied by his ample girth. It is hard to believe that he plays the game as much as he does—when one realises that gallons of water are sweated out and pounds in weight lost, whilst indulging in our game. Dick, altho' when playing, is a lather of perspiration, never changes physically from one year to the next.

It has been apparent to many people who have played against our personality, that his unorthodox penholder style can be a most disconcerting situation to handle. It is with pleasure that I spotlight a really dedicated player whose disposition and friendliness make him a credit to the game and a person on whom young and new players, would do well to model themselves.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I enjoyed my inaugural visit to Liverpool for the Merseyside Open and the Editor has kindly allowed me some space to criticise the tournament. Well, Sir, I'm pleased to say that I found the playing conditions and general organisation excellent.

One well-known player informed me that tables at Southern tournaments are always much faster than at our Northern events, but our Northumberland contingent, which was 16 strong, were well satisfied with the tables. Incidentally the erstwhile critic performed rather well despite his complaints.

The Canteen facilities and changing rooms were reasonable, and the Committee seemed to run the tournament with smoothness and efficiency.

One criticism I must make concerns the entry forms. There are no travelling directions for those coming by car. I suppose "old hands" wouldn't mind, but we struggled to find the venue from Liverpool. Also, there was the unfortunate scratching of one of our players from the Men's Singles after he had rung through to say that he was coming with three others in a car. His opponent was given a walk-over and played his next round before our lad arrived, about an hour late. Surely there were enough matches to be put on before his? Mind you, in all fairness, I was lucky to escape a similar fate as I arrived over an hour and a half late! So perhaps we'd better draw a veil over this episode!

The finals were, due to an unavoidable clash in styles, rather disappointing. Few players throughout the day seemed to inspire much enthusiasm among the spectators. The best game I saw was between Mike Johns and Derek Wall. The balance swung between, from one to the other until Johns finally clinched the final point. Mike Symonds unfortunately, was off form, and he always appeared to be struggling against Haslam. All credit to the Middlesex boy, though—he was the best man on view on the day and fully deserved his title.

Of course we had hoped that Maureen Heppell might capture the Ladies Singles, but it was not to be. Pauline Martin added another trophy to her season's collection. She can certainly hit the ball! Some men would be pleased to have such power! And I must mention those little green skirts that some of the girls wore—I thought they were most attractive.

In closing may I thank you Merseyside folk for your hospitality and welcome. We, in Northumberland, look forward to returning this in good measure at our own "Open" on 12th March. If anyone wishes to stay overnight please let me know and I'll try to arrange something for them.

Yours most sincerely,

ARNOLD WARENTS,
Publicity Secretary,
Northumberland T.T. Assn.

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Around the Divisions

DIVISION 1.	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Bohemians	8	8	0	0	71
W'tree Lab.	8	8	0	0	68
L'pool YM	7	7	0	0	64
Rafters	7	7	0	0	54
Linnets	8	5	3	0	46
W'tree Lab. A	8	2	5	1	31
W'tree Lab. B	8	3	3	2	31
Beauclair	8	3	6	0	29
Cadwa	7	1	6	0	26
L'pool YM A	7	2	5	0	25
Bath St.	8	2	5	1	25
Pirates	7	2	5	0	23
Pirates A	8	0	8	0	20
LPAS	7	1	6	0	17

DIVISION 1.

By JIM GREEN

LIVERPOOL, YMCA are, as usual, at the top of the table, but for the first time in some years it is going to prove a harder job to stay there, for both Bohemians and Wavertree Labour are right on their heels—a deal closer than at this stage last year. And only nine sets behind come Rafters, always ready to take advantage of slips by those just ahead of them.

Strangely, these top three might have been closer had it not been for young Ian Burrows and Gordon Exell, both of Linnets (who lie fifth). Against Bohemians both took a keen delight in scalping Peter D'Arcy (and these two would have kept kept level with the YM, then Burrows 1, Exell 2 against Wavertree Labour (Farquharson, Hurworth and Owens in that order) pushed them a shade further away from the YM team. Of course they hope to restore the status quo by taking something from the YMCA in the next match, but whether they will or not remains to be seen. It is fair to say that, had Linnets been able to play their full side every match they would have been higher, for only once has the side been out—in the first week, after which Frank Thomas got injured in a scooter smash. Then Dixie Dean and Tony Green had to drop out for a time, so their present fifth position reflects some glory on the two left, and on the reserves who have kept them so well up the table.

The YMCA's second string are suffering from team troubles, having been without the services of Dave

Butterworth for some weeks, but expect to see them shoot upwards now. They might do their first team a lot of good at the same time. Then come the true unpredictables—firstly the two Wavertree sides.

It seems very strange to me that, with Eddie Moran out of their first team at least for a time, that Fraser Farquharson comes back in, for if they want to push for the championship surely someone stronger would have been introduced? There are men in the second and even the third teams more feared than Fraser, and the twin sighs of relief from the other two title chasers, Bohs and YM were so powerful that the Met. office put out a gale warning! The lesson must be clear that, to win a title the five best must play every week, and play every point to win. There's no room for either sentiment or temperament when you are after a championship.

Beauclair, Cadwa and Bath St. are going along very much as expected, and I reckon Beauclair will make it out of the danger zone all right. But it is quite ridiculous that, with the players signed on for Pirates, to see them down this far. After one third of the season gone everyone thought that Pirates would have sorted themselves out and would have been chasing every single point for their first team, for it is obvious that they have let themselves drop far enough that only a really determined bid for safety will do them any good now. To save their first side they might have to sabotage their own second and even third teams, but nothing is more certain than unless they act pretty smartish, next year will find no Pirates teams in this division.

As for the Police, not even they themselves would give themselves no more than a 1 in a thousand chance of surviving another season, but I've seldom found a team quite like them. Before the season started they knew that they had little or no hope of a second season up this far, but they were pleased to have earned the chance, and were agreed that if they went down they would go down in the knowledge that they had fought for every point. All those who have played them know

that this has been the story. Each of them fights good and hard—nothing given away, even when they know that they are on to a hiding to nothing. Such successes as they had have been earned the hard way and Allan Heague tells me that they are as cheerful now as when they played their first match. Would that this spirit went further through the League.

Bath Street lie in just that spot which is on the border-line—they may get away or slide just a little—and it will be interesting to see which way the luck takes them.

Taken all round, it looks like more of a scrap at the top, and a real dog-eat-dog at the bottom, with few sides out of one or the other—these are the lucky ones!

DIVISION 2A.	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Colonsay	8	7	1	0	63
Bohs. A	6	6	0	0	53
Linacre	7	6	1	0	51
Waterloo Park	8	4	1	3	51
Eng. Electric	7	3	3	1	38
Crawfords A	7	3	3	1	36
L'pool Jewish	7	3	3	1	31
LPAS A	7	2	4	1	28
Sefton	7	3	3	1	28
Linnet C	7	2	5	0	26
Bath St. A	7	0	6	1	18
Rafters A	7	1	6	0	15
Oakhill A	6	0	5	1	14

DIVISION 2A. By DAVID COHEN

JUST a few words to start with about the division table, altho' it is really self-explanatory. At the top end the Colonsay team, with its injected strength, seems to be running ahead of all competition, with Linacre and Waterloo Park apparently fighting it out for second-place honours. However, there have been some odd results at this end considering the positions as they stand. Bohemians have beaten each of the teams above them by convincing scores. Colonsay (correction to my previous notes!) went down 7-3; Waterloo Park dropped 8-2; and Linacre crashed 9-1. It will be more than interesting to see what happens in the return fixtures, for Bohemians have re-grouped since then, and two of their original side have now gone into their first team. Having lost

Keith Rawlinson and Vic Chesham, they must (obviously) be weaker, but their present five are quite strong enough to win against any other side in this division, so he who takes them as 'easy' is looking for trouble.

At the foot of the table, Bath St. "A", Oakhill "A" and Rafters "A" are each making a fight of it against the bog of relegation. It is much too early yet to forecast the result, even to prophesy whether or not any other teams will become involved in the struggle, but I don't think it will finish with just these three involved! I rather think there will be another one or two before the close.

A few and nicely, comfortably placed in the middle, neither excited about the prospects of promotion or fighting to keep away from the relegation zone—they're the lucky ones.

And now a moan, although it is really little to do with this division. I hear that recently a member of this League inflicted upon his opponent the ultimate defeat of 21-0. He followed this the next night by winning by the same score in the Business Houses League. The only thing to be said about this is that it is utterly and completely inexcusable. Should the recipient of such a hiding be a youngster who hasn't yet got over his match nerves, it may well be instrumental in driving him out of the game altogether.

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DIVISION 2B.	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Oakhill	7	7	0	0	54
Mossley Hill	7	5	1	1	52
University	6	3	1	2	43
Pirates B	8	4	2	2	42
Crawfords	7	4	2	1	41
Trinity	7	2	2	3	39
St. Edward's	7	3	2	2	38
Linnet B	8	2	5	1	33
L'pool Jewish A	7	1	4	2	30
Linnet A	5	3	2	0	29
L'pool YM B	7	2	5	0	26
W'tree Lab. C	5	2	3	0	24
Eng. Electric A	8	2	5	1	24
Bootle YMCA	8	0	8	0	9

DIVISION 2B.

By JOHN O'SULLIVAN

WHEN I wrote the notes in the last Digest, information was so limited about how the teams had fared in their various matches that I had to stick strictly to one or two that I had seen. So after the hiding handed out by Liverpool YMCA 'B' to Mossley Hill, I ventured to forecast that they may have had the 'giant-killer look'. Since then they have lost their next five games, four at 2-8, and one at 3-7, which does not support any giant-killer label. I wonder what happened to Mossley Hill that night?

(Don't you know, John?—They got licked.—Editor).

I predicted also that Oakhill would finish at or near the top. Well, they are certainly top, but with Mossley Hill, Crawfords and University very close behind. In fact only 10 points cover the first five teams as I write. Crawfords have been one of the surprises of the season to date, for they have lost only one match, to Pirates 'B' 6-4. Bill Woods went down 19-21 in the third against Les Lewis to drop that vital one set.

Pirates 'B' had been going great guns, handing out thrashings right and left, till they came to Oakhill, where they crashed 1-9, Tom Bunner getting their sole set. (This Pirates team always seems to me to be 'Anfield on tour').

The team that may cause more than one or two upsets before the season is out is Trinity. Although newly-promoted they are currently sixth and have beaten more teams than they have bowed before, and have held University to a 5-5 draw. This in itself is worth a mention, but it was no mean feat for Ricky Brown to go to three with R. Heath, who I rate as one of the best in the division. It will be interesting to see what happens when Heath meets Bill Harris of Oakhill who is as yet unbeaten in League matches, altho' he was beaten 13 and 11 by Bob Hudson in a Cup game.

At the other end of the table, Bootle YMCA only managed to avoid relegation last year due to vacancies caused by clubs dropping out, and this season have only gained 9 points to date, so they will have to start pulling something out of the bag if they want to stay with us for another year.

Although this year's Merseyside Open had a vastly increased entry, I was a little disappointed with the turn-out as spectators on finals night. The quality of table tennis churned out on that evening is something never achieved in our League and it seems to me silly to miss it. In fact I always hope that some day I may be lucky enough to see a Liverpool player win.

As always, on my trips round the clubs I am bombarded with comments about what is wrong with the League and complaints about what happens during matches, but NEVER can I induce the grouseurs concerned to put their moans in writing to be printed in the Digest, either as letters or part of my notes. So I can only assume that it is only hot air, and that these people have not got the courage to put their opinions on record for all to see. But all this apart, I can see a great fight coming along among five or six clubs for promotion, and speaking purely personally (as a Mossley Hillite) I shall be delighted to see any one of you other clubs coming in second!

DIVISION 3A.	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Colonsay A	8	8	0	0	65
Stanley House	8	5	3	0	49
Bohs. B	8	5	3	0	45
Eng. Elec. B	6	6	0	0	44
University A	7	5	2	0	44
Pirates C	7	5	1	1	40
Beauclair B	8	2	3	3	38
W'tree Lab. D	7	3	3	1	36
Crawfords B	7	2	4	1	27
L.Y.C.A.	8	1	6	1	27
St. Mary's	7	1	5	1	24
Oakhill B	6	1	4	1	23
Vagabonds	6	1	5	0	20
L'pool Jewish B	6	0	5	1	18

DIVISION 3A By JACK LAMBERT

FIRSTLY, a reply to our Editor. My idea was to provide a champion of our own Division. The Restricted Singles should provide a champion of all the four lower Divisions.

A game that pushed Colonsay 'A' to the forefront was v. Bohemians 'B'. Despite 2 from Frank Rooney (Bohs) and thanks to John Leeson (Colonsay) Colonsay won 6-4, to maintain their unbeaten record.

Pirates 'C' v. Colonsay should have been another "sort-out-the-top" but it did not take place. Unofficially I have been told that there may be an appeal (though I cannot vouch for the truth of this statement), so I reckon it better not to comment in case we have an all-night sitting of our Cabinet.

Although my own team is having a very nice little run, thank you very much, I regret that, despite

my prayers of last month, we look like having the ogre of a "run-away winner" with us once again. I also feel quite strongly that this could have been avoided.

St. Mary's Old Boys have a nice little father and son combination in Joe and Tony Delamere. The side won their first point against Oakhill with four sets to the Delamere's, and M. Eddy taking the other. Our old friend McCracken is still going strong and took his two for Oakhill. These are two nicely balanced teams with good rooms and it's a pleasure to play against them.

There was a glamour night at Beauclair, when visited by Pirates—four girls on parade and an excellent 5 points for Beauclair, thanks mainly to Bob Morris winning his two. B. Goodman took his two for Pirates. Then, of course, there were Rene, and Elsie, Margaret and Barbara. Who cares about sets?

Colonsay look a good combination with new signing Les French, and English Electric appear to be quite strong despite the age and weight factor—no prizes for guessing the gents concerned. Ellard is on top form for them. Pirates, I should say, come under the same category, and Goodman, Connell and Tyler keep on winning. Stanley House have old faithfuls Lyn, Harding and Pierce, together with a very handy player Ghiaghana.

In the division are a number of old friends whom I hope to mention at a later date, and altogether it looks like being an interesting season.

DIVISION 3B.	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Beauclair A	7	7	0	0	53
Orrell	8	4	2	2	49
Palmerston	7	7	0	0	48
Colonsay B	8	3	4	1	43
British Rails	7	4	2	1	42
LPAS B	8	4	4	0	39
Linnets D	7	4	2	1	38
Bohs. C	7	3	4	0	36
Lussac	5	4	1	0	34
University B	7	2	4	1	27
Coll. of Tech.	8	1	7	0	27
Pirates D	8	2	6	0	26
Bath St. B	5	2	3	0	21
Eng. Elec. C	8	0	8	0	17

DIVISION 3B. By BERT ARISS

EVENTS have already transpired to make mock of the predictions in the last issue. Pirates, due to a re-organisation, are playing what is virtually last year's "E" team as their "D" team, and results to hand indicate that they are in for a very lean time with their present complement.

Beauclair "A" have got away to a good start, their only setback being at Lussac, where they were held to a 5-5 draw. Lussac have to thank J. Lynch for his victories over Del

Inge and Ron Reynolds. However this strong Beauclair side seem destined for higher spheres next season unless something very unforeseen occurs, including as they do W. Whorton (ex Bath St. 1st team), R. Reynolds (Bath St. 'A') and K. Hartley, together with Inge and Ron Allcock. They are indeed a powerful combination.

It would appear that the young Bohemians side are not creating the best of impressions with their general standard of behaviour. Perhaps an 'old hand' to guide the side might be advisable. In Alan Davies and Paul Murgatroyd they have two of the best prospects in the Division. Both are currently in the Liverpool representative team, and played their first match with much success, each winning his three sets.

Linnets "D" with the greatly improved Dave Blake, are testing the best of sides. Their best performances to date were against British Rails, where they fought back from 5-1 down to a very creditable draw, and a 6-4 win over Lussac on Lussac's table. This team have been complimented by the League Chairman for their neat and tidy appearance, all in their black shirts

with the club badge. There are few clubs which adopt this attitude to our sport.

In the lower half of the table English Electric "C" are finding it tough going, having lost once 0-10, and twice 1-9 at the time of going to press, and will be hard pressed to avoid the big drop without strengthening.

Palmerston almost certainly will be involved in the final reckoning for honours at the season's end. It is good to see a lady, Mrs. C. Wright, more than holding her own against the division's male stars. Together with D. Winnal, B. S. Alexander, R. G. Jones and D. Hodgins she completes a Palmerston team seemingly stronger than that of last season which finished third in Div. 4B, and they will have a great say in ultimate honours.

We could at any time turn out a more than useful ladies team from our side, Mrs. Wright, Barbara Topping, Joyce Newell (Bath St.) and Carole Flood (Linnets) being the ones which come readily to mind.

I take this opportunity to wish you all the luck in the world this season, and remember the old motto—"if you can't beat 'em, get them to join you!"

DIVISION 4A	P	W	L	D	Pts.
L'pool YM C	8	7	0	1	64
W'loo Park A	8	6	0	2	63
Trinity A	8	6	1	1	59
Goodlass Wall	8	6	2	0	56
Crawfords C	8	5	3	0	47
Orrell A	8	3	3	2	46
Palmerston A	8	4	3	1	44
University C	7	3	3	1	36
Eng. Elec. D	8	1	5	2	30
St. Patrick's	7	2	5	0	25
Linnet F	7	2	5	0	21
Vagabonds A	7	1	4	2	20
Knotty Ash	8	2	6	0	15
Coll of Tech. A	8	0	8	0	14

DIVISION 4A. By TOM GORDON

AFTER seven weeks play the field has certainly spread out, and although this is so we don't have any run-away teams. The top place is being hotly contested between Waterloo Park "A" and Liverpool YMCA "C", who seem to be unusually equal in strength, for, after playing seven matches each, 55 points have

been won by each team. What is more, they have already played each other, the result being a draw. For the record, Park did win 13 games to the YMCA's 11, and the only man to win twice was M. Abbott of Waterloo Park. But how much closer can you get?

And all in all the newcomers to this division are doing surprisingly well. Goodlass Wall and Trinity 'A' are right on the heels of the leaders although the former team suffered a severe set-back in losing to Waterloo Park 8-2.

St. Patrick's are not having to happy a time though, but let it be said that they have bumped into two of the top teams, YMCA 'C' and Goodlass Wall. In both of these games their hero undoubtedly has been M. Manley who won two of their 3 points won. Both of his victories were earned after dour struggles in the 3rd game.

Knotty Ash began the season disastrously, gaining only two points from their first three matches. I don't

know what came over them at this stage, but they suddenly started winning, knocking their tally of points up to 15. Braithwaite and Rowlandson seem to be working particularly hard.

Linnets 'F' are unfortunately in the doldrums. Looking through their results, however, I was suddenly shaken to see that they had beaten Vagabonds 10-0. A glance at their card revealed all—Vagabonds had forfeited six sets! There must be a story behind this.

The wooden-spoonsists at this stage are College of Technology 'A'. Their best game has been against St. Patrick's when they took four points. Jennion won his two altho' one of his games developed into an Umpire's Nightmare! He lost the game to Manley at the incredible score of 32-34.

Trinity 'A' are a very useful side, having played an excellent draw against Waterloo Park, every man pulling his weight by winning one

set. A. Abbott had a particularly good win over his namesake, M. Abbott of the Park, this being his only defeat in 12 sets. And Orrell 'A' are chugging along quite nicely, although the only one of the stronger teams have been played—Trinity 'A' against whom they dipped 3-7. George Wright, Mrs. Lil Jenkins and Mrs. Illidge all seem to be maintaining a good average.

Val Ball of English Electric is doing her best to keep the flag flying with little support. Celia Buckles is playing well below her best—I have a suspicion that Leon Shamis of Liverpool Jewish has bewitched her!

University 'C', Crawfords 'C' and Palmerston 'A' form the solid centre of the division. Each of them has met at least one of the top four and received a good thrashing, but P. Cave (Crawfords) does seem to have been playing well, for he has salvaged at least one set from every one of his matches.

DIVISION 4B.	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Colonsay	8	6	1	1	60
Wyde	7	5	1	1	55
Mossley Hill A	7	5	0	2	51
Waterloo	7	6	0	1	51
Edge Hill	6	6	0	0	43
Pirates E	7	4	2	1	43
Linnet E	6	3	2	1	32
Eng. Elec. E	8	2	6	0	32
Stanley H. A	6	2	4	0	26
St. Edward's A	6	2	4	0	25
Bohs. D	7	1	5	1	20
Rafters B	4	1	3	0	11
Linnet G	8	0	7	1	11
Oakhill C	7	0	6	1	10

DIVISION 4B. By MAX RATOFF

AS must inevitably be the case in any fourth division, there is a wide gulf between teams at the top and bottom of the division. After 8 weeks play four teams form a little 'top' band, three form a second group, and the bottom five are falling away from the rest week by week. At present Colonsay lead the field with 60 points from 8 matches, 5 ahead of Wydes (55 from 7 games), Waterloo trailing by 4 (7 matches), then Edge Hill (43 from 6). By the time you get this, however, these may be in a completely different

order as there is of necessity a time lag.

Looking through the Wydes cards, it is quite obvious that devotion and diligence to the task are of prime importance to them. For example, the No. 1, Mr. P. Sinclair, was not lacking in these virtues when he manfully struggled to beat the Linnets "G" 'experienced old hand' Miss Linda French 21-0, 21-1. There is one thing I dearly like to see, and that is the encouragement of beginners! By allowing her to gain that single point in the second game he has, no doubt, succeeded in germinating the seed of ambition in one of the League's new arrivals!!

In the Bohemians v. Oakhill game W. Rickaby narrowly defeated Miss J. Hunter (Bohs) 29-31, 21-14, 21-18. It is a long time since I heard of a game going to 31, and it must have been quite a game.

Of the top group, it seems that Waterloo have had slightly the harder programme to date. Already they have played (from 7 matches) Wydes, Colonsay 'C', Edge Hill and Mossley Hill—four of the top five teams other than themselves. You can't get it much tougher than that to kick off with, and their success in these games indicates that they

must be favourites for promotion— v. Wydes, won 6-4, v. Colonsay, won 6-4, v. Mossley Hill 5-all, v. Edge Hill, won 7-3. With the so-called "easier" matches to come they should have quite a lead by the half-way mark, but they will do well to remember that every match is a hard one when promotion chasing.

Colonsay are a sound side, composed of fairly experienced players from Lowlands, Colonsay and the old Fairlawn club. They will take a lot of beating and will be there or thereabouts with Wydes at the season's end. This Wydes club, from what I am told, has had a career of unqualified success from its formation. It seems that for four successive seasons they topped, in turn, the four divisions of an unaffiliated League, the fourth time being the League championship, so they decided to turn their attention to a major League. They will have quite a struggle to make this their fifth time running, but any team disputing them will be forced to fight it out on the table. It's good to see three such teams as this in our division, especially with a tremendously improved Edge Hill

Boys Club sitting in, taking advantage of every slip by their fellow contestants.

Somehow, though, I cannot see Wydes making it four-in-a-row in this League. I rather think that there are a few other teams who will do their best to stop them! I must admit though that if they carry on in that spirit they, in turn will want some stopping!

It makes you think, don't it, when the 6th team in the division has played seven matches unbeaten! That is Mossley Hill's record, so they mustn't be written off.

From there down, none can honestly have any championship hopes for this year. One or two may do a bit of damage to the hopes of others, but they cannot get there themselves, yet they will enjoy the season battling against the top teams and jockeying for position among themselves, and despite the annual grumble of the gap between the top and bottom teams, will enjoy their table tennis as always, so let's look forward to the next Digest to see who's gone up a peg or two and who's slipped. Have a good time over Christmas!

WOMEN'S DIVISION.

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Rafters	7	6	1	0	58
Cadwa	7	7	0	0	57
Linnet	8	6	2	0	56
Crawfords	6	5	1	0	46
Bibbys	6	4	2	0	42
Pirates	6	3	1	2	40
Bibbys A	8	3	4	1	40
Sandown	7	3	3	1	38
Rafters A	8	2	4	2	33
Linnet A	5	1	4	0	12
Lussac	7	0	7	0	11
Goodlass Wall	8	1	7	0	6
Linnet B	6	0	6	0	4

WOMEN'S DIVISION.

By JUDY CRAFTER

FEW surprises have come out of the first few weeks of the season, the stronger teams winning as expected, but it is seldom that we get any real upset in the division, apart from the odd game at the top or right at the bottom. But the very first week brought one of those matches which from the start can turn one way then the other all night, when Pirates met Sandown. Maureen King played well to beat

both Milly Harris and Lily Wynne in 2-straight, and Doris D'Arcy in her opening match for her new club beat Milly Harris in the 3rd, 21-9, after two 'deuce' games, but lost to Amy Bell, who beat Wendy Jones by practically the same score 21-8 in the 3rd. And so it went with the final result 5-all. But with six sets going to three it was a match which could have gone either way.

Marie Lupton, one of Linnets new signings from the Police (Isla Russell being the other) has not taken long to make her mark in this division, having had wins over long serving members of our division, and playing for the City "A" team where she was the only one to take a set from Stockport and followed up by beating both Reg Royle and the Liverpool champion Barbara Cain against Wirral. Her colleague, Isla Russell is just as difficult to play against, and Linnets were fortunate to acquire their services. Backing them up comes a much improved Carole Flood but it seems that Angela Parker has not reached her previous form yet.