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**TABLE
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OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE **DIGEST** TENNIS

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A. E. Upton, J. C. McKim and S. D. Cameron

Vol. XVI

APRIL, 1966

No. 5

Editorial

THE end of yet another season has arrived, although it seems a very short time since the first matches were about to be played. And I feel that the time has come for me to thank the many helpers who have contributed to the production of these last five issues. My assistant Editor, Jim Green, does the bulk of the work in collecting together all the articles and items of news. Many of these articles come in to us written in longhand (not always easy to decipher), and Jim goes through these very carefully and types them out for the Printer. Then if, at the last minute, we find ourselves short of copy, it is Jim who has the job of thinking up some topic and then writing the "space fillers" in an effort to ensure that there are no blank pages.

John O'Sullivan and Peter Rix have been responsible for special articles, and they have produced a very interesting assortment of these throughout the season.

I must not forget the Divisional Correspondents, all of whom have done a very good job, and, I must add, a very difficult one, which they have performed in a most unbiased fashion. The Secretary and Treasurer, the Match and Fixture Secretaries have all written more than a few words and, last but not least, I thank most sincerely those gallant people who wrote out the wrappers after the first Issue, when Jim's wife, Mrs. Jo Green, found that she was no longer able to do this monotonous chore. A special word to her, for she has done the addressing of wrappers, and posting, for just over 5 years, which has been quite a stint on such a very dull, but quite essential chore.

To each and every one of these do I offer my earnest thanks for making my own job probably the easiest one of all.

Later in the magazine you will find the League tables—which, ultimately, is the place where we all try desperately to "top". I sincerely hope that some of you are delighted to see your place in these, and that *none* are completely disgusted with your team's position. Remember that, even though you have finished at the bottom, it is a spot which has got to be filled, and make up your minds that next season you'll make sure that it isn't your team lying there.

This is the time to ask you, especially Club Secretaries, to have all details of your club ready when your teams are entered for the new season, and if possible, to have match nights as nearly fixed as possible before the handbook is printed. The last thing that any of us want is to go to a meeting called for the distribution of handbooks and then to spend a great deal of time writing alterations into them. While some are doubtless necessary, let us all try to minimise these amendments.

I suppose now that some will be going away on holiday, some taking part in other sports, and some even practising hard at table tennis throughout the summer, but in whichever direction your own interests lie, I hope most sincerely that you will all have an enjoyable time, and will all return next September determined to make the new season even better than this one has been.

Salute the Players !

WHO says that "we haven't got any players nowadays?" Who suggests that our League is too weak to bear comparison with those surrounding? Throughout this season our players have demonstrated that Liverpool isn't dead yet, and that the defeatists can cease their wailing and moaning, for there is indeed, life in the old dog yet!

Before the war, I was privileged to be a spectator at Harold House, when Liverpool beat Manchester. I shall never cease to regret that my duties at the "draw" for the Liverpool Closed prevented my being present at the Y.M.C.A. on March 18th, when our men again beat Manchester, for the first time for somewhere in the region of 30 years, thus finishing second only to Bolton in the 1st division. To those four players who between them have placed Liverpool higher than they have been for many, many years, I raise my hat. To Roy and Ron Jones, Gordon Birch and Peter D'Arcy, this League owes its gratitude for lifting us right out of the depths, and it will be a churl indeed, who does not accord them collectively, due credit for a performance undreamed of a mere 12 months ago. Roy Jones was the only ever-present and had the highest average, but this was a team effort in every sense of the word.

Our policy of bringing out new players whenever possible was more successful than was anticipated or even hoped for. The men's "A" team beat Widnes away in their last match, thus winning 7 of their eight matches, losing only 4-6 to Preston last October, and Eddie Clein, Trevor Owens and Ken Chambers have firmly established themselves in the inter-City field. Eddie played in all 8 games, coming out with a 75 per cent. record, Trevor won 11 sets from 12 played, and although Ken Chambers missed the Widnes game (through exams) he won two-thirds of his sets played and the Committee were pleased to award him his "A" team badge. Undoubtedly more will be heard of all three players for a long time.

The tale of triumph carries on with the Youth team whose record reads P8 W6 D1 L1 Pts. 13, which was an excellent performance. Their sole defeat was caused by the inclusion of Mike Johns in the Mid-Cheshire side, and a player of his great talent turned an otherwise mediocre side into a powerful combination, for undoubtedly he was virtually worth a 4 sets start! So nobody can deny that our Youths, for whom Eddie Birch and Ian Burrows played throughout, did us proud. The third place was filled variously by Rod McPherson, Ray Lavin and Peter Ferris.

The Juniors wound up with a decisive win over Blackpool and lost only twice, to Bolton and Blackburn. The position is not quite clear about their League position, though, for the Macclesfield team did not arrive on the due date, and as we could not find another date before the end of the season we claimed the match. However, as yet no confirmation has been received about this walk-over, so I must content myself by saying that we have won 6 and lost 2, with another possible win to come. Phil Metcalfe, Paul Murgatroyd and Allan Davies, with 3 appearances by Ian Burrows, formed this year's team, and since both Metcalfe and Davies have another year as Juniors before them, we have the nucleus of a sound team ready for battle to start again in October.

Unfortunately, the performances of the males was not equalled by our Ladies. For the 1st team, 2 wins and 2 draws from 5 matches didn't come up to expectations. In Judy Crafter, Maureen Coe and Mabel Francis we had a team which, on paper, was as strong as any we have had for a long time, but they just never seemed to "click" on the same night! Nevertheless, we undoubtedly have a strong team here and can afford high hopes for next year. Their final mid-table position does them no discredit, and the time must come when the girls hit form together, then with the added confidence, we shall see things hum. The pre-season split up of the Ladies'

division into two, more or less doomed our "A" team before a ball was struck, but the few games that they played gave a few of them an introduction to City play, and Marie Lupton did well enough for the Committee to award her the "A" team badge. Other younger players showed enough talent to give us hope for future seasons.

But throughout every team this year has been a tremendous fighting spirit, and although sets have been lost, they have never been lost by lack of effort. I feel proud to have been connected with a collection of players of both sexes and all ages who have battled so very hard for every single point in such a successful bid to re-establish the prestige of this League amongst its fellows!

And I'm sure that this season they have started us back towards the very high position that Liverpool held pre-war. I salute each and every one of them.

Somewhere Gordon Birch left two articles of clothing one evening. If he happened to leave them at your clubroom, please phone STO 2480 so that he may collect them.

The items are :

(a) One Track Suit top of blue Bri-nylon, bearing a heavily embroidered CADWA badge;

(b) One Fawn Leather Jacket with woollen sleeves and facings, striped lining.

Thank you!

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Monday, 23rd May, 1966, at Liverpool Y.M.C.A., Mount Pleasant.

From correspondence read during the season there are likely to be several controversial items on the Agenda, so members are advised to give their Club Secretaries their opinions on these, and to the Secretaries we urge Keep this date clear to attend, promptly, at the Meeting.

Decisions taken on that evening will affect every single member of the League, so if no representative of YOUR Club is in attendance, you cannot complain if things are not to your liking when the new season comes around.

MONDAY, 23rd MAY, 1966, at LIVERPOOL Y.M.C.A.!

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The Liverpool Closed — 1966

—By B. A. Leeson

THE University Gymnasium was the new venue for the Closed Tournament this year, and it proved to be a fine replacement for Dingle Vale, both from an administrative and a playing point of view.

The new Men's Champion, Ron Jones, had little trouble in winning the title. Only Trevor Owens, in the Quarter Final, could take him to three games, while Val Franco and Peter D'Arcy in the Semi-final and Final were swept aside in the shortest possible time. D'Arcy, on the other hand, had been fortunate to survive his Semi-final against Peter Hurworth, 21-19, 25-27, 21-19. Hurworth had earlier boosted his morale by eliminating the number one seed, Gordon Birch in the most convincing manner, 21-14, 21-11.

Val Franco made good progress by means of a narrow win over Ted Mandaluff, 21-18, 17-21, 22-20, and then a good win over Frank Thomas, 21-8, 21-17, in the Quarter Finals.

Roy Jones, another seed, was surprisingly beaten by Roy Smith in the first round, 21-19, 16-21, 19-21.

The Women's title was won fairly comfortably by Judy Crafter, who beat the previous holder, Barbara Cain, 21-11, 21-19. Judy's hardest match of the tournament was, in fact, in the second round, when she just got home against Barbara Horsley, 21-16, 16-21, 22-20. Until the Final Miss Cain had not conceded a game, beating Barbara Topping, Marie Lupton and Margaret Collins before overcoming Mabel Francis 21-9, 21-12 in the Semi-final.

The pairing of Gordon Birch and Pete D'Arcy proved too strong for all opponents and these two claimed the Men's Doubles event. Only in the first round against Franco and Norman Parker were they made to go to three games. Their Final opponents, Roy Jones and George Smith, also had a tough first rounder against T3d Gilmour and Eddie Moran, but even tougher was their Semi-final against Ted Mandaluff and Peter Turtle, 16-21, 21-16, 25-23.

Maureen Coe and Judy Crafter took the Women's Doubles title from the previous holders, Barbara Cain and Joyce Randall, 21-14,

21-17, while the Mixed Doubles was retained by Frank Thomas and Judy Crafter who took three games to beat Gordon Birch and Maureen Coe.

The Junior title went, as expected, to Ian Burrows, who beat the improving Philip Metcalfe 21-14, 22-20, while the Veterans' event was won again by Vic Chesham, who beat Peter Rumjahn in an exciting Final 8-21, 21-13, 21-13.

The Restricted Singles was won by Tom Roberts of the University, and he achieved this without conceding a game to any opponent. He defeated Mrs. Jean Reynolds, P. Lewis, R. S. Alcock and A. Ellard before meeting Mabel Francis in the Final. Mabel had a narrow win over D. Piper in round one, 17-21, 22-20, 22-20, but then had a sequence of convincing wins over B. S. Alexander, J. Entwistle and S. Harvey.

Philip Metcalfe gained an excellent if not surprising victory in the Men's Consolation Singles Final, when he beat George Smith. Philip had previously beaten Ray Lavin in the Semi-Final and had earlier accounted for J. Letch, J. Wren, K. Harrison and R. McMullen. George Smith had reached the Final via R. B. Howard, T. Roberts, K. Chambers and N. Parker.

The Women's Consolation event was won by Myra Lovelady who had victories over Mrs. J. Rumjahn, Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Newell before taking on the young Marilyn Gordon in the Final. Miss Gordon had had three good wins over Barbara Topping, Mrs. Illidge and Mrs. Loughrey before losing in three hard fought games to Mrs. Lovelady.

It is interesting to note that 25 Liverpool League clubs had players participating in the Tournament, and that 15 clubs took no part whatsoever. It's a great pity that every club couldn't be represented at the Closed. It's also interesting to note that players from the Linnets club entered for a total of 46 events, which is 10 more than the next club, Rafters. A detailed analysis of the entries in this way quite clearly indicates where the keen tournament players are, and there are sufficient of these to give the Committee heart to continue with the difficult, com-

plex organisation necessary for the running of such a tournament.

In a personal letter to Jim Green, Kenny Roberts (last year's Closed Champion) sends his regards to everyone in the League and hopes that you are still enjoying yourselves at the matches. Ken is now settled in Perth (Australia) but hasn't been able to get into any table tennis circles, for it appears that the sport is not well organised in that part of the country. However, he hopes to come back, if only for a visit, at some time in the relatively near future, to look up some of his old

pals. I've no doubt that he will be more than welcome. Good luck, Ken.

Those who were at the "Closed" finals will know that John O'Sullivan took a lot of photographs, of all prize winners being presented with their prizes, and many 'action' shots of the players. Proofs of all of these are to be seen at 43-45 Lark Lane, and anyone who is interested in having some are welcome to go along to see them, but *please* don't go on Sundays. Any other time, but not a Sunday!

THE TREASURER'S REPORTS ON THE "CLOSED"

— Don Cameron

First, a brief report on the Income and Expenditure involved :

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
1965	£	1965	£
(43) Entry Fees	48	(15) Hire of Rooms	15
(7) Receipts at Door	8	(2) Printing	5
(5) Profits on Catering	7	(6) Prizes	15
(14) Raffle profits	7	(1) Insurance	1
		(1) Balls	1
		(6) Gratuities	5
		(2) Cartage	22
		Secretarial Expenses	1
		(33) PROFIT	5
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
(69)	70	(69)	70

Although a number of accounts have not yet been received, these have been estimated, and the final result shows a small profit.

The heavy reduction in profit is caused by two items, Prizes and Cartage. The cost of prizes increased by £9, and cartage by £20. It must be realised that prizes cannot be obtained gratuitously for ever, and we must pay for some now and again, being extremely grateful to those who have donated so freely. Cartage expenses, unfortunately, have been much higher this year, because the tables were brought from the South of England, those based at Manchester being all engaged. But we understand that Dunlops will be keeping their tables up North next year, when obviously the cost for carting them will be drastically reduced.

Catering and Raffle profits always bring extra cash in towards the cost of running the Tournament, but I cannot emphasise too strongly that both items are due to purely volunteer labour. The Canteen, in particular, where each season Mrs. Sturgeon and Mrs. Edna Hughes labour ceaselessly (this year with more adequate help, I was pleased to see) is provided primarily as a service for the players, and *never* do either of these ladies even get the chance to watch any game before about half-way through the Finals. Backroom work indeed, for which all concerned should be more than grateful.

Flogging raffle tickets is a soul destroying business, as we all know, yet each season we find a bevy of lovelies (too numerous to mention individually, I am afraid) taking on this unenviable task. Their help is more than welcome, and they invariably make it seem almost a pleasure to part with our money.

I pay my annual tribute to the ladies undertaking both of these chores, with a most sincere "thank you!" to each and every one of them.

Around the Divisions

DIVISION 1.

By JIM GREEN

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
L'pool Y.M.	26	23	3	0	223
Bohemians	26	25	0	1	215
Wav. Labour	26	20	4	2	188
Rafters	26	19	5	2	170
L'pool YM 'A'	26	13	11	2	146
Linnets	26	14	10	2	144
Wav. Lab. 'A'	26	12	11	3	134
Beauclair	26	10	14	2	107
Cadwa	26	8	16	2	105
Bath St.	26	7	15	4	98
Pirates	26	7	17	2	83
Wav. Lab. 'B'	26	6	17	3	82
L.P.A.S.	26	3	23	0	66
Pirates 'A'	26	2	23	1	55

WELL as expected the YMCA have again won the championship despite losing 6-4 in their final match v. Wavertree Labour. They went into that game knowing that three sets would give them the championship, but my, how they had to fight to get them! Undoubtedly the majority of the division are torn as to which team Liverpool Y.M. or Bohemians should have been at the top, for Bohs lost none and drew one, while the Y.M. lost three. However, under the system as played, the YM won it fair and square. And although many do not like this system, everyone knew what rules they were playing under when they started, so the YM have every cause to have a clear conscience. Bohemians have the consolation of having won the Cup and having beaten the Y.M. three times throughout the season. And of being comfortable runners-up. Wavertree Labour and Rafters come 3rd and fourth.

The tremendous run-in of Bath Street lifted them right out of the danger zone, and the unlucky relegation candidates are the two Pirates sides, Wavertree 'B' and LPAS. Three of these only came up this year and we can only hope that they enjoyed their stay, brief as it was, and that they gained something which will be in their favour lower down. Even now it is hard to believe that Pirates go down, but they have been playing badly all season and have to take the consequences. I rather think we shall see them back very, very soon.

Despite the loss of Harold Wilcock Cadwa have given a good account of themselves and they've every right to feel pleased since they lost so many of their stronger players just before the season. And Beauclair, on their debut, have never seemed likely to go down, for although they hovered fairly near the bottom in the first few weeks, the team of Bobby Owen, Ted Birch, Frank Murphy, Bradshaw and Rix undoubtedly had the beating of several others. The first season here is the hardest, so they may be with us for a long time to come.

There are so many score-cards still missing that it is hard to see what positions will be between the top and bottom fours. Fifth place should be decided between the YMCA 'A' and Linnets with the Labour 'A' team seventh, but who can tell without score cards?

Taken by and large it has not been a bad season. There has been more competition than usual at the top, with a few extra teams able to snip away the odd sets from the championship contenders, which opened up matters more than usual. This sort of thing is all to the good, and we can only hope that each year means a harder fight for the top spot. I have been taken to task for mentioning ill-feeling at a match. Everyone can make up their own minds on that, and further comment is unnecessary.

There is only one major event now before the close for this year—the A.G.M. and from discussions that have been going on around the League on sundry points, it seems that that night will see some of the toughest fights of the entire season. So we hope that there is a full meeting this year.

Looking around I reckon that the average age of this division has dropped drastically over the past couple of years. What players will be coming up we never know, but it is certain that the University will help to lower this average still further, for none of them are likely to be veterans. All to the good.

I hope you all enjoy our annual couple of days of summer and that we shall be seeing you again next year. All the best.

DIVISION 2A.

By DAVID COHEN

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Bohemians 'A'	24	23	0	1	214
Colonsay	24	20	3	1	176
Linacre	24	19	3	2	166
Waterloo Park	24	16	4	4	161
Crawfords 'A'	24	11	11	2	113
LPAS 'A'	24	7	13	4	112
English Elec.	24	8	12	4	111
Sefton General	24	10	12	2	101
Linnnet 'C'	24	7	13	4	98
Liverpool Jewish	24	5	16	3	85
Oakhill 'A'	24	5	17	2	78
Rafters 'A'	24	3	17	4	75
Bath St. 'A'	24	4	17	3	70

THE close of another season finds Bohemians 'A' as runaway champions of our division. It has been only too obvious to everyone concerned that their team was far and away too strong for our other teams and that only an epidemic of broken legs could possibly prevent their swift return to the 1st division and the very fact that they were able to win the Rumjahn Cup final by a score of 9-1 is enough to show how much ahead of us they have been. There is no doubt that this team is destined for a long stay up there, unless they lose a number of players, which doesn't seem likely. We all wish them all the very best, just as we do Colonsay who came in second, and who were the runners-up in the Cup.

While Bohs had a relatively easy season, Colonsay have earned promotion by fierce competition with Linacre and Waterloo Park, and it is our sincere wish that they do well in the highest sphere of all, which they have been aiming at for a few years, right up the League. We wish them well.

Reluctantly I must bid a sorrowful farewell to Bath Street 'A' who are our sole 3rd division candidates, for with the withdrawal of Cadwa 'A' we were left with 13 teams, so from my interpretation of the rules only one of our sides is due for relegation. They have fought hard all the way but they just were unable to get those few vital extra sets which they

needed so badly. We all hope to see them again, and wish them good luck lower down.

Linacre, who are thereabouts each year again are just pipped for promotion, and with Waterloo Park have kept up the pressure right through. But after the top four the next five have a comfortable middle-of-the-table look about them, and the other four have been engaged in a relegation free for all. So it has been an interesting season, with few incidents, and much good fellowship despite truly tough scraps every week.

It is interesting to note just how much one man can influence teams positions. For instance, had Fred Pheysey not won 37 of the English Electric sets, they would have been among the relegation candidates, and the Holmes brothers of Linnets between them won 53 of the sides total 98 points. Had Harry Reeve been available throughout, Linacre could well have earned promotion for in the second half he won 23 sets from 26, and he couldn't turn out till the second half. These are only a few instances, but you will see my meaning when I say that one man can make a tremendous difference to the position of any side.

As far as score cards arrived can show the only man with a 100% League record is Robert Eden (Bohs) with 30 wins from 15 appearances. He did drop 1 in Cup matches (v. Waterloo Park) but he has given a grand performance since coming into the division.

I think it fair to say that in these days of players not turning up our division must have been one of the very best in this respect, for there have been very few occasions when any one of our sides hasn't had the full complement of players. So we can provide an example to the rest of the League. In fact I can, on behalf of everyone, to everyone, say thank you for a most enjoyable season. I can only hope that next year will prove just as good in every respect.

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
University	26	21	1	4	204
Oakhill	26	21	2	3	187
Mossley Hill	26	18	5	3	177
Linnnet 'A'	26	18	6	2	164
Trinity	26	13	9	4	147
Crawfords	26	14	9	3	144
St. Edward's	26	12	9	5	134
Wav. Lab. 'C'	26	11	12	3	129
Pirates 'B'	26	11	12	3	121
L'pool YM 'B'	26	10	14	2	114
Linnnet 'B'	26	8	15	3	112
L'pool Jew. 'A'	26	3	21	2	82
Eng. Elec. 'A'	26	2	23	1	55
Bootle Y.M.	26	1	25	0	50

WITH University having disposed of any claim to their right to 1st division status very early on, the only excitement left at the top of the table was to see who would be going up with them. This distinction lay between Oakhill, who dropped out of the top sphere only last year, and Mossley Hill who have never yet been up there, and the issue was never settled until the very last match of the season—having been postponed because of the 'Closed'.

After what must have been one of the best matches of the season (at any rate the best that I saw) Oakhill won 7-3, and on paper would seem to have had an easy win. That this is far from the truth is shown by the fact that eight of the sets went to three, and the game between Bill Harris and Derek Mahon was one of the most exciting of the season. Bill had already shown that he was in remarkable form when he beat Bob Hudson with some tremendous returns from shots which seemed to have 'winner' written all over them. He was still in this form when Mahon, hitting more accurately than at any other time during the season, found his hardest kills coming back. When he eventually won 24-22 in the third, he was like a wet rag. Definitely a game to remember. So hearty congratulations to Oakhill—going back at the first time of asking.

In my last notes I was singing the praises of the redoubtable Heath

(University) who had beaten all comers. Then on 3rd March University beat Pirates 9-1. Who lost the 1? Our friend Heath, with Les Lewis coasting home comfortably 21-12 in the 3rd. Which was as good a performance by Les for a long, long time. Then, with the ice now broken, three weeks later, young Phil Metcalfe (Wav. Lab.) beat Heath again, this time in two straight! Congratulations to both Les and to young Metcalfe, also to Phil Metcalfe for his fine win over 1st division George Smith in the Consolation Singles final at the Closed. With the award of his Liverpool Junior Badge, he has indeed had a good year.

There doesn't seem to be many upsets recently, apart perhaps from St. Edward's, who lost 10-nil to Linnets 'A' and to Trinity, then with the same side beating Mossley Hill 6-4.

Bootle YM just managed to escape relegation last year by the skin of their teeth, but I am afraid that this year there will be no reprieve. Eng. Elec. 'A', who only joined us this year from div. 3B are making a hasty retreat back again, and I hope that it is not too long before we see them up here again.

It is an interesting reflection that, after the top teams had been promoted last year, the three teams next in the table are also the three top teams this session (with Oakhill thrown in from the 1st division for good measure). It might well be worth watching next year!

As this is the last "Digest" of the season I would like to add that I have really enjoyed my trips around the clubs meeting old friends and making new ones, and I hope that you have all derived as much pleasure from your table tennis as I have. I hope to see you all again next season, equally as enthusiastic, with new abilities acquired from hard practice throughout the Summer.

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Colonsay 'A'	26	22	2	2	196
University 'A'	26	20	4	2	188
Bohemians 'B'	26	18	4	4	184
Stanley House	26	18	5	3	172
Crawfords 'B'	26	15	7	4	150
Wav. Lab. 'D'	26	11	11	4	127
Pirates 'C'	26	11	13	2	120
Beauclair 'B'	26	8	14	4	113
Eng. Elec. 'B'	26	9	15	2	110
Vagabonds	26	10	15	1	105
St. Mary's Coll.	26	6	14	6	99
Oakhill 'B'	26	6	17	3	96
L.Y.C.A.	26	3	21	2	84
L'pool Jew. 'B'	26	3	18	5	76

COLONSAY 'A' have proved themselves our team of the season, worthy champions and Hyde Cup winners. Their five selected players have turned out most regularly, and between them they have missed only six games throughout the season. Les French has played a real Captain's part, winning 42 sets, and not missing a match, and he is followed by John Leeson and Arthur Lampkin with 37 sets,—Humphries 35,—and Ron Evans 34.

University have been excellent challengers. Once again Captain Roberts has shown the way, playing in every match and winning 39 sets. He was well supported by Jones with 31 sets. Bohemians also fought every inch of the way, John Dalton leading the way with 37 wins (another Captain) and Davies, Murgatroyd and Stirzaker each came along notching over 30 wins.

A few facts and figures from the rest—minus a few score cards not yet received (?): Beauclair called

on 10 players. Maureen Coe won 24 sets, and John McKim played in 26 games. LYCA (8 players), Coulson and Carter each 25 sets; Carter and Hughes each 26 games. Crawfords (12) Harvey 32 sets; Conlan 26 games. Liverpool Jewish (10) Taylor 18 wins, Davies 25 appearances. Pirates (11) Tyler 33 sets with Tyler and Eric Dorfman each 24 games. Wav' Lab. (11) K. Jones 21 wins, Jones and N. Burrows 20 matches. English Electric (15) Lambert and Burness 24 wins and Lambert and Black 26 games. St. Mary's (7) Eddy 23 sets, Delamere A. 26 matches. Stanley House (9) Lyn 38 wins, Harding 26 games. Vagabonds (10) D. Ridgway 27 sets and Storey 26 games. Oakhill (11) Charnock 28 wins. Eaton and McCracken 26 matches.

To finish off an excellent season Tom Roberts (University) won the Restricted Singles at the 'Closed'. There was plenty of good competition, glamour abounded in plentiful supply with Barbara Topping and Maureen Coe two amongst many. (Let's solve the Ladies' problems by putting them all into 3A?). Veterans like Moon, Harvey, Rooney, Siddal, etc., all winning more than they lose, and a crop of budding 'prospects' like Murgatroyd and Davies (with Liverpool Junior badges) Krikorian, James and Little. The boys who do the work like Harding, Dalton and Eaton.

These are a few names that come to mind, but there are many more who have helped to make this an enjoyable and successful season. Thank you all!

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DIVISION 3B

By BERT ARISS

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Beauclair 'A'	26	24	1	1	194
Palmerston	26	23	2	1	183
Lussac	26	17	7	2	168
Colonsay 'B'	26	15	8	3	160
Orrell	26	14	7	5	147
British Rail	26	11	10	5	144
Bath St. 'B'	26	12	13	1	123
Bohemians 'C'	26	9	14	3	122
Linnet 'D'	26	9	13	4	120
University 'B'	26	11	13	2	119
L.P.A.S 'B'	26	7	17	2	114
Coll. of Tech.	26	9	13	4	113
Pirates 'D'	26	3	22	1	68
Eng. Elec. 'C'	26	1	25	0	45

AS was anticipated for most of the latter part of the season, congratulations must be offered to Beauclair 'A' on their winning the 3B title, and to Palmerston, who as runners-up have also gained promotion.

At the other end of the table we must sadly take our leave of Eng. Elec. 'C' and Pirates 'D' who will be lining up in the 4th division next September, where I feel they will have a better time amongst sides of a standard nearer to their own. But at the same time due credit must be offered to English Electric on recording their first victory of the season even at this late stage. This win was at the expense of their fellow sufferers, Pirates 'D'. J. Feeny winning two sets for the Electric, whilst G. Taylor recorded a double for Pirates. Incidentally, Pirates have called on no fewer than 14 players for their last four matches (as I write, with more cards to come), during which period they gained a very creditable draw with Linnets 'D'. It is most distressing to report that during those same four weeks,

no fewer than 34 sets were conceded in default, due to teams playing short. Further comment is considered completely superfluous.

Police 'B' suffer heavily by reason of different turns of duty performed by their players, yet they finished in a respectable position. In Alan Wood and Jock Catterson they have two most likeable players of no mean ability.

And the strengthening of College of Technology by the inclusion of V. C. L. Albert must have been greatly welcomed by Alan Crawshaw, who has been sadly lacking in support most of the time. In actual fact Crawshaw has himself earned no less than 32 of the 113 gained by his side. Add to this the 10 added in the later stages by Albert and it means that these two collected nearly one-half of the whole total for the season. Their defeat of Lussac 6-4 was one of the surprises of the later weeks.

None of our players did anything worthy of note in the recent 'Closed' apart from the close but fine win of Joyce Randall over Maureen Coe, but let us hasten to add that Maureen gained swift revenge the following week when Beauclair defeated Palmerston 6-4.

Lussac must be commended for the way in which they kept up the pressure on the second side, Palmerston only falling away in the last few weeks. At one time it looked as though it would be a toss-up for promotion. Better luck another time.

Till next season then, when we shall be welcoming new faces, and unfortunately miss a number of the old ones. Keep fit and keep smiling.

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DIVISION 4A

By TOM GORDON

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Waterloo Pk. 'A'	26	23	1	2	220
L'pool YM 'C'	26	22	1	3	211
Goodlass Wall	26	20	4	2	191
Crawfords 'C'	26	19	4	3	184
Trinity 'A'	26	18	4	4	182
Orrell 'A'	26	14	10	2	148
University 'C'	26	14	9	3	146
St. Patrick's	26	8	15	3	104
Palmerston 'A'	26	7	16	3	101
Knotty Ash	26	7	18	1	82
Linnet 'F'	26	5	20	1	74
Eng. Elec. 'D'	26	3	20	3	72
Vagabonds 'A'	26	3	21	2	54
Coll. of Tech. 'A'	26	3	23	0	51

HEARTIEST congratulations to Waterloo Park on winning the Division with but one defeat during the season. They have put up a magnificent performance and in only four League matches have they had to call on a (single) reserve, so six players only were involved in the triumph. A Rumph and M. Abbott played in every game. Worthy victors indeed!

Their sole defeat was away to Goodlass Wall, and the score card shows a bit of a mystery, for two of the Waterloo players played only one set each, Messrs. Rumph and Reid, each conceding his set against the Goodlass no. 1, P. Kilgallon. So the actual 'played' score was 4-all. An intriguing situation about which comment cannot be made since only the teams involved seem to know the reason.

Liverpool YMCA finish in second place, even though two score cards involving them are missing even yet. Unless something happened in these two matches of which details are not known, they have gone through the season with 5 players only—the same five turning out NEVER short, and always present. A model most certainly to be taken as an example to the many. One wonders how many other sides in the entire League played unchanged throughout?

According to my calculations the wooden spoon position is shared by College of Tech. 'A' and Vagabonds 'A'. Of course, with the score-card position as it is I may be wrong, but if this is so, it must be pleasant to have company in the hot seat. At least one is not friend-

less and alone. However, better luck to both sides next term.

The struggle for second place has involved Goodlass, Trinity 'A' and Crawfords 'C' as well as the Y.M. team and all have put up a valiant show. These three (or some of them at least) can take comfort from the vacancies higher up, for these have still to be filled, and who knows, it might well be by them?

Knotty Ash deserve a few words of credit, for on entering the League they ran right into a run of heavy defeats, but they kept going, with increasing success, have won 7 matches and drawn 1, finishing with a respectable total of 82 points. I cannot be blamed if I forecast far better things to come for them next year.

English Elec. 'D' and Linnets 'F' have struggled near the foot of the table for most of the time, but they seem to have enjoyed their matches and have all fought for every set. Judging by the letters attached to their names their clubs cannot have hoped for championship honours, but they have every hope and chance of climbing higher inside their own clubs to attain more success, and this year's experience should stand them all in good stead.

Orrell 'A' as always, have played to get and give pleasure, and have been worthy opponents throughout. Mainly composed of ladies it seems surprising that they can win so often, which says a good deal for their ability, for few of our lady members (in this sphere) are anywhere near as effective. Obviously George Wright is excluded from these remarks, but sufficient to say that George has given a great lead to his side with his 38 League wins at the no. 1 spot.

Palmerston and St. Patrick's had a middle of the table look about them from the start, and that is just where they've finished. I have just one regret about St. Patrick's—we didn't see Ian Callaghan (the L'pool outside right) playing for them after he had signed on! May be next year you'll put him on display, so what about it, St. Pat's?

Have a good summer, get in some practice and we hope to see you again next season.

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Wyde Y.C.	26	23	2	1	210
Waterloo	26	23	2	1	194
Colonsay 'C'	26	20	4	2	194
Mossley Hill 'A'	26	17	7	2	165
Pirates 'E'	26	15	7	4	147
Linnets 'E'	26	14	10	2	146
St. Edward's 'A'	26	13	11	2	140
Edge Hill	26	13	13	0	125
Stan. House 'A'	26	7	17	2	102
Bohemians 'D'	26	7	14	5	101
Eng. Elec. 'E'	26	6	18	2	93
Oakhill 'C'	26	4	19	3	81
Rafters 'B'	26	3	20	3	77
Linnets 'G'	26	1	22	3	44

WE are now at the end of another season—the time when most of us are busily computing our averages, and wishing that those 'easy' ones had been won, and that all those nets and edges had not gone against us at the critical moments.

I am sorry to start off on a dismal note, but I must repeat once again what has been publicised so very many times before—that score cards are just not being posted punctually, if at all, to Eddie Cameron. With a printing deadline to meet I have to write these notes with some 17 cards still missing. How one manages I leave you to imagine, but it doesn't help the contributors, and goodness knows that Eddie Cameron just *cannot* do his job, which is an onerous one at best.

There is certainly no doubt about the winners, and congratulations on behalf of all teams go to Wyde, on a splendid performance over the entire season. The runners-up will be either Colonsay or Waterloo. Which, I will not dare to guess, score cards being as they are, but they have been contesting this spot throughout the season, both waiting for the slightest slip from Wyde, and whichever it is will have most certainly have earned the honour. However, with a few vacancies in higher divisions I opine that they may yet find both teams in division 3 next term. These three have been our outstanding teams from the start, and all will be more at home in a stage higher.

A special mention for Linnets 'E' who have made quite a gallop for home, and who finished in quite

a healthy position far different from their early lowly level. And at the lower end of the table, the 'other' Linnets are the unfortunate holders, each and every member of the side, of a handsome carved wooden spoon. Whilst this was not entirely unexpected, all credit must go to a team of new players who have learned a lot from their first competitive season. Watch out for these babies next time!

Rafters 'B' have now caught up their outstanding games, but despite my optimistic promptings they were unable to climb those vital few places.

All in all a highly satisfactory season and I trust that the summer practice sessions will prove of benefit to those who take part in them.

I suppose that I oughtn't to mention walk-overs again or I'll be getting a reputation as a 'nark' and accused of picking on Stanley House. I won't mention it again BUT R. Daiken and P. Jenkins (of you-know-where) did take on together the entire might of Waterloo, followed by R. Daiken providing the sole opposition to Colonsay. The oh dear! O dear! No-one turned up at all to do battle against the mighty Wyde. I am not treating the subject facetiously, nor am I picking on anyone in particular, but I am quite sincere in my poor efforts to stop a practice which I find peculiarly abhorrent—that of persistently playing short. It is bad enough on the occasions which are genuinely accidental or caused by illness, etc., but there are those who appear to do this far too often for it to be genuine. Only the clubs can really stop this sort of thing by internal discipline inside the clubs, so we cheerfully pass the buck to them!

I hope that my little personal likes and dislikes don't seem to have turned this excellent magazine into campaigning "Halleluya"!

I wish everyone a happy summer (of hard practice of course) and a successful new season come Sept. And all sharpen your pencils and give the Editor some hard work next year with all sorts of contributions in large quantities.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

By JUDY CRAFTER

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Rafters	22	19	2	1	188
Crawfords	22	20	1	1	187
Cadwa	22	18	2	2	175
Bibby's	22	17	5	0	159
Sandown	22	13	8	1	134
Linnets	22	12	10	0	117
Bibby's 'A'	22	8	13	1	95
Rafters 'A'	22	7	13	2	94
Linnet 'A'	22	5	17	0	57
Pirates	22	5	17	0	57
Pirates	22	3	17	2	46
Linnet 'B'	22	2	20	0	35
Goodlass Wall	22	3	19	0	30

WHAT a grandstand finish to the season! Rafters, though beaten 4-6 by Crawfords towards the end of the season finished at the top with 188 points with their conquerors a single point behind. What a difference that sole set makes, but there is no doubt that this championship win by Rafters has been a fine team effort from the start. When the two sides met Crawfords just scraped home 6-4 as I've already said, with three sets going to three, and nearly every game a close one. "Pinky" Rumjahn just beat Muriel Cox on a deuce in the third, and Eileen Mansell had a victory over Mabel Francis at 21-16 in the third, just to prove that there is life in the "Old Dog" yet. (Don't hit me when you see me Eileen!).

Well with the season finished I've had to face writing the final notes. Thank goodness for that, for I never did fancy myself as a journalist at the best of times. Still I've done my best, and I hope you haven't got too many complaints.

Towards the end, during the last few weeks it has been fairly evident that the weaker teams in the division have been finding their feet. For instance, Goodlass Wall took three points out of Linnets "B" and two from Bibby's 'A' which is a great improvement on the beginning of the season when they were getting beaten comfortably 10-0. And this is only one instance of improvement. I could pick out quite a few other examples. So I must stress to these weaker teams—PLEASE don't give up because you feel a bit dejected at the results of your first season. Remember what I've said earlier, that everyone has to start somewhere, even World Champions!

Bibby's had a heavy defeat when they played Crawfords, losing 2-8. Barbara Cain and Barbara Horsley gained the only two points. Reggie Royle lost easily to Joyce Randall, but it is not very surprising if Joyce played as well as she did in the Closed when she beat the ex-Durham county player, Maureen Coe in three very tough games. Joyce was really on the very top of her form on that night.

The Crawfords v. Cadwa match was another very exciting game, and a draw was the fairest result. Incidentally, this was the farewell appearance of Maureen Wilcock who has now emigrated to the Isle of Man with her husband Harold (and the family) where they take over as Wardens of a Youth Hostel in Ramsey. I am sure that everyone wishes them the best of health and luck in their new life. To Cadwa, their loss is great for they will be sorely missed, not only as players, but as two very keen workers on behalf of the club.

Since I last wrote notes, Pirates have conceded two more matches as walk-overs, one to Rafters and one to Bibby's. It is a great pity that there has been so little co-operation between the members of their team for they could have given all of us a good game. But maybe the new season will find them in a better position.

Don't forget, you Tennis players, to spread the gospel about our League among all the tennis clubs you visit during the summer. I'm sure that in this way we can get some more ladies' teams, and there must be other types of sports clubs who would be interested in entering a ladies' team also if any of you happen to know of them. I'm thinking of works' teams, where there are probably quite a few girls who would be keen to have a go. The more the merrier, for if we can get two divisions again, it will sort out teams into nearer relative strengths, and at the same time add incentive to all of our matches. So see what YOU can do as a recruiting officer! If you find anyone who shows interest, give them the name and address of our Organising Secretary who will be delighted to give them all the details.

On Point Pinching

LOOKING around at the 'Closed' it was very obvious that the service rule is now becoming ignored more and more and more. It must be all of 15 years since the I.T.T.F. laid down that the ball must be thrown from a flat hand, fingers together, and thumb extended. The hand may not be cupped. And so on, and so on.

With not the slightest exaggeration 19 out of 20 players at the Closed were foul serving every single time. The hands weren't cupped round the ball, they had a headlock on it! Flat hands are decidedly out of fashion, as are all of those other little things mentioned in that seemingly very unpopular rule. But why is this so? Those players of 10 or more years active 'service' generally conform to the rule for there was so much more emphasis laid on the rule in bygone days, but latter-day players have neither the inclination or intention to abide by this rule *unless* something fairly drastic is done. The average young player takes a firm inter-locking grip on the ball and from then on it's every man for himself. Why? Because they get more advantage that way, and if you ask, you are invariably told that until they are stopped by umpires they've no intention of stopping their foul serving, which many admit quite freely.

The same players would never dream of disputing the loss of a point if the ball hits their bat (a volley-type shot) even accidentally, for that would be considered cheating. Yet the same people deliberately foul serve time after time to gain some slight advantage and rate themselves as clever. And nine times out of ten even Umpires haven't a clue as to what is or isn't a good serve anyway, so they are on to a soft thing! BUT, if players were to learn the rule and when umpiring, call the fouls, after the

first few very unpleasant matches you would see flat hands, fingers together, thumb extended and Uncle Tom Cobley and all. All it needs is a little band to start the 'foul service' lark for it to spread like the plague. To the benefit of the game in general.

Then there are those very 'dicey' points which nick the table on the far side from the Umpire. The striker shouts "hard luck, Tom" and the receiver bellows "bad luck, mate" so whichever way the poor Umpire gives (most times genuinely) this point there is a black scowl from one player or the other, and often a heated argument. Now BOTH players know only too well who actually *should* have that point, but both will argue to the death that it is his, so the umpire is on to a hiding to nothing ever time. That isn't cheating to them, it's just part of their game. And when the ball happens to hit a bloke's hand or wrist he is quite prepared to tell the umpire that it has bruised his shoulder if he hopes to make him give him that point.

But the worst of all is this service business. At the Closed there were players of inter-League standard and nearly so whose services are not suspect, but flagrantly foul, yet never are they 'called'. Is this because the Umpires are afraid that when it is time for them to play that they might get the same treatment? It really is time now for players and umpires to give this matter of services their undivided attention. The players should take steps this summer to learn the rule and to serve in accordance thereby and to come out next year with the idea that "if I can do it, I'll ruddy well make sure that you do, too!" Then, and only then, will this point pinching business get cleaned up. And goodness only knows that it *needs* cleaning up!

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I have heard arguments from various people that table tennis is not a "team" game, but that one of our matches is really ten separate events, and that our points system should recognise this by giving due credit to individuals. I cannot see just how this argument holds water. Ten people, representing two clubs, meet to decide which is the better team. It is as simple as that. When asked the result after any match we hear "we won 6-4" or "we lost 4-6". Never does one hear, "we won four points". We won, lost, or drew. Further, our city teams play also in a League, in which 2 points are awarded for a win, 1 for a draw. Our players eagerly hope to get places in the County teams, where 2 for a win, and 1 for a draw also prevails. Even the England team plays for a win—so much so that matches are stopped when either *team* has won five sets! The current argument in favour of the present points system seems to indicate that everyone is out of step bar us! For the higher standard Leagues already mentioned do not illustrate the importance of the individual, rather they put the emphasis on team work. The individual is NOT above his team. The team, and the Club are more important than any individual member thereof, and since every player is a member of his team, he should allow that the team result is more important than his own individual performance, which has always been recognised under 'sets for'.

If and when people generally take away *team* performance to replace it with the merit of one or two individuals, as is done under present circumstances, they cannot then require loyalty from its members, for they are encouraging them from the outset to consider themselves as more important than either team, club, or even League!

Personally, I applaud Gordon Birch for his 100— record for the season. Nobody praises good performances by individuals more than I but since these are made by them as members of teams, these results should be taken as a part of a *team*

performance, NOT as odd sets raising his team above the true value as a whole of that team. To me, the high position of Gordon's team and their having won the Readman Cup is of more lasting value than are the performances of one man, brilliant as those of Gordon have been. One man does not make a team—Gordon Birch would be the first to agree with that, and both the team *and* the player should receive due credit for their respective hard work. Bohemians as a team, and Gordon for his great show as a *member* of that team. Both are worthy of due acclaim, but under this present system the emphasis is on the individual, not the team, and this, in my opinion is the wrong way around. AND, if I am wrong, then the Lancashire League, the County Championships, and the International matches are wrong also! "Give unto Caesar, etc., etc."

Actually, the old system appreciated team performance by points, and individual wins under 'sets for' so surely that should satisfy both parties?

Under this present system, two brilliant players *alone* can hold the otherwise weakest team in a division. Every match (26) can be lost 4-6 (no 'wins' or 'draws') to amass a total of 104 sets or points, which is enough to keep a side up. This is a ridiculous position—makes a farce of competition—and gives a stupid picture of the team as a whole. And there are cases of one or two people today, in this League, carrying the main weight of their teams on their own shoulders.

Let the emphasis go just where it belongs, on to the *team*, which is as it should be. And let 'sets for' demonstrate the brilliance of the individual.

Yours faithfully,

A. R. GREEN

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

P.S. Gordon is a good friend of mine, and he knows that I admire his tremendous record of this season. As long as he *does* know that, I'm not worried about anyone else's view on the remarks above.