

WITH A MENTION.

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TABLE DIGEST TENNIS

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Vol. XVII

JANUARY, 1967

No. 2.

Editorial

WE have reached the half-way stage of the season for the first time in some years without some serious "incident" to distract attention from the job in hand — to play weekly matches.

Unfortunately, two Clubs have been lost by the wayside. Bootle YMCA, after a long and proud record of membership, reached the stage where they had insufficient members to field a team and were obliged to withdraw. I feel that there is nobody who do not earnestly hope that their retirement is purely temporary, and that we shall see them back next season with a full complement of players. Edge Hill Boys' Club are the first unhappy side to be dealt with under the new Rule introduced at the last A.G.M., and were automatically expelled after three walk-overs being given against them.

It is doubtful if the sponsors of this Rule gave any thought to the one-team Club when it was proposed, but it was explained fully in the last "Digest" by the Secretary, and no Club can say that they didn't know. But, some thought should be given to this Rule, for the University Club seems very vulnerable. Unless they have the co-operation of their opponents, they stand to lose two or three teams each season *before they assemble for the year*, which seems a most peculiar position in any sporting organisation. Nor, as was explained last issue, the Committee have no discretion in the matter at all, and under present conditions the University will be in a parlous plight should opposing Secretaries refuse their annual requests for re-arranged matches.

It has come to my attention that the "Rules" printed in the score-book are now well out of date. This has led to some difficulty at one match, where one side took the service rule in the score book and complained about the service of an opponent who was serving outside the limits of the table. If these Rules are not to be brought up to date each time they are altered, they should not be printed, or when they are issued at the start of a season, no team can be said to be wrong if they invoke them.

However, the main thing is that as yet we have had fewer postponed games, and as far as can be judged as yet, fewer "offences" of playing short and there seems to be keen competition throughout the League, with few titles 'sewn up' as yet, so it looks like being a good season. Let's hope that it finishes as it has started.

NOTICE FROM LINNETS

Linnets wish to remind everyone that players may not play in their Club-room unless wearing pumps or tennis shoes.

The Revival Continues!

Our Men's team has now played 4, won 3, lost 1 (to Bolton) and continues the revival started last season. In addition they have travelled in turn to Blackburn and Nottingham in the Wilmott Cup, winning each 8-1, thus qualifying to meet Bolton in the zone final. This game will be played whilst the "Digest" is at the Printers, and since the team as demonstrated against Burnley just recently, they are a confident and fighting team, they will go into the match with more heart than they have felt against Bolton for many years. Our trio of Gordon Birch, Roy Jones and Peter D'Arcy will be out to take every point, even though it is possible that they might lose. Nobody can ask more of a team than that they try.

Our "A" team is largely experimental as has been stressed many times, and after the first match Eddie Clein was stood down to give Rod McSherson (Bohs.) a chance to move up from the Youths. He has stood up to the test very well so far, and is in the side which meets Chester (away) on 29th December. The position at the top of Div. 2 (West) is wide open, and the "A" team can yet finish anywhere from 1st to 4th. Again, we know that if they do lose, it will be a better team which beats them for once again we have three fighters in Roy Smith, Ian Burrows and Rod McSherson. They are all young enough to improve which is exactly what we want from them, even more than winning their division. The Committee might have selected a team of older players who could possibly have sewn up the division, but there is no future in that!

MID-CHESHIRE PULL IT AGAIN

Again our Youth team look like coming in as runner-up, having lost 4-6 to Mid-Cheshire. For the second time in two years we found our team of Peter Wass, Alan Dean and Rod McPherson (before he moved to the "A") facing a member of their 1st

team. This time it was J. Nevins, last year Mike Johns.

Now the object of forming this division was to bridge the gap between junior play, and 'arriving' in one of the senior teams. It was never intended that an *established* player should take part. But it looks as though this is to be the new pattern, and having had the same fast one pulled on us twice in successive seasons, nobody should be the least surprised if Mid-Cheshire find themselves playing against Gordon Birch and Ian Burrows (both eligible by age) next year. However, we have seen enough of our Youth team again this season to know that there are some improving young players on their way up—which is the *true* value of this division.

THE JUNIOR GIRLS TRIUMPH.

This season for the first time we have entered a Junior Girls' team in the Bromfield Trophy competition, run on Rose Bowl lines throughout the country. In the early rounds we got byes, and our girls made their debut in city battles against Northumberland, in the zone final. Janet Rumjahn (Rafters) and Jenny Morris (Linnets) each won two, and Barbara Newport (Colonsay) got one in a 5-4 win at Colonsay. Who they meet in the next round I cannot say, but it is evident that these, and other junior girls will be challenging some of the seniors for city places very, very soon. Selecting this team is a problem in itself for we have a wealth of girls, most of whom have another year or two to go as juniors, unlike the Junior Boys, of whom we can find three only throughout the entire League! Since two of these are only 12 year olds, Janet Rumjahn has played throughout, and as yet no matches have been won. We can find no-one to support Phil Metcalf, who to date has won all of our sets.

THE LADIES TEAM ALSO . . .

Our Ladies team have also reached the zone final of the Rose Bowl by means of a 9-0 win over Burnley, and in the League have won 2, lost 1 (to Manchester). Since then we have learned that Maureen Coc is no longer available, having left Liverpool to work in Wiltshire. We wish her all possible good luck in her new job. However, this will entail Joyce Randall moving up into a permanent 1st team place, and judging from her performances there this year she will pull her weight. Again, the zone final between Liverpool and Stockport will have been played by the

time you read this and we hope that the result is a good one from our point of view. The Ladies "A" team continues to struggle, but they have now played all of the stronger sides of the division and might find that the New Year brings them better fortune.

Judy Crafter has again been selected for a couple of County matches, in the 1st team, and Gordon Birch has played throughout for the County "A" team. It is a long time since Liverpool had two players currently playing for Lancashire, and we only hope that there will be others to join them before long.

From the Secretary's Desk

—By J. C. McKim

SAVE THE "CLOSED"

The Liverpool "Closed" Tournament is in danger of not being staged this season, or of being run in some modified form due to the difficulty in obtaining a suitable venue at an economic cost, the charges for the University Gymnasium (used last season) having been increased to a point which would mean a heavy financial loss unless entry fees were increased substantially. This step we are loth to take.

If any member can help by suggesting a venue I shall be pleased to hear from him. We require premises to hold 6 tables, with changing accomodation and provision for catering facilities, and we would require the use of the premises for at least three week nights plus Saturday afternoon and evening.

WATCH YOUR SERVICES

A great deal of discussion has been going on recently about a tightening up of the existing service rule. Those of you who saw the final of the Men's singles at the Open will realise why some action is thought to be necessary and whilst we are not unduly troubled in our normal League programme by the "under the table" service which is the cause of so much trouble, at higher levels, it is an indisputable fact that you can go to any League match in Liverpool and can count yourself lucky if more than 1 out of the 10 players taking part uses a legal service! Now, if

an Umpire "calls" a player for foul serving, it causes ill-feeling, but if the player gets away with it without being "called" it also causes bad feeling, so the answer is obvious—serve correctly or expect to be called. 99% of these illegal services give the server no advantage in any case, so why provoke unnecessary trouble to show off a flashy service?

RULE 20 APPLIED

Unfortunately, the Committee have been forced to apply the revised Rule 20 and to order a club to withdraw a team from the League after conceding three walk-overs. We hope, most sincerely, that we shall not be forced into this position again this season.

Our League has entered a team for the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy competition. The team will consist of three men and one lady player, and no doubt the Match Secretary will publicise details of our first round opponents as soon as possible. *Both he and the team will be very grateful for your support and encouragement at the match.*

May I close by wishing you all a very good New Year and express the hope that you will make it a good year for the Committee by ensuring that the name of your club is never mentioned at our meetings unless we are handing out bouquets for honest success and sportsmanship.

Letters to the Editor

37 Ancaster Road,
Liverpool 17.

Dear Sir,

I have heard a lot of comments recently about the promotion of Linacre (3rd in Division 2A) instead of Mossley Hill (3rd in 2B) who are, according to the reports, a much stronger side. In the last issue of the "Digest" the Fixture Secretary stated that Linacre's match record was better (which it was, 6.91 against 6.80 of Mossley Hill), and that that was the reason they were promoted. This is fair enough, but both last year and this, Division 2A was very much weaker in strength than 2B, and while this is hardly the fault of Linacre, it does seem more than a little unfair to Mossley Hill that, because they played in the stronger division, they lost the chance of promotion.

Why not try to correct this disparity in strength? At the end of this season number off the teams in both divisions in their final order, and take the ODD numbers from 2A and the EVEN numbers from 2B, these to make up Division 2A. The EVEN numbers from 2A and the ODD from 2B will compose Division

2B. The 3rd and 4th Divisions should be treated in the same way and the few exceptions such as two teams from the same club could be accommodated by placing them in separate sections. If this were done at the end of every season we would be sure that the two halves of each division would be as nearly equal in strength as can be arranged.

I have heard also, a lot of comments about how many teams should be promoted into the 1st Division, two or four? In 1965 five teams were promoted, and in the same year only two were relegated (due to resignations). In 1966 3 of the promoted teams were again relegated, and the two sides which went down previously were then promoted, together with University and Colonsay. If you take a look at the last issue of the "Digest" you will find the clubs promoted last season occupying four of the bottom five places. These facts prove, I think, that however many teams go up, they won't, with the odd exception, be good enough to stay there.

Yours faithfully,

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

13 Lichfield Ave.,
Waterloo.

Dear Sir,

Quite a number of our member clubs are equipped with, or have the use of, bar facilities and a few of these clubs provide pints of beer during the refreshment interval to their visitors.

Although most players no doubt enjoy a drink, a large number of players do *not* welcome alcohol in the middle of a match, and as some teams inevitably contain non-drinkers

or players under the age of 18, these people are denied any refreshment, as no alternative is offered.

I am of the opinion that the main reason for this is that team Captains are too lazy to be bothered with making a pot of tea, and I think that the Committees of these Clubs should step in and stop this sort of thing before other Clubs with similar facilities follow suit.

Yours faithfully,

NORMAN COOKE
(Linacre T.T.C.).

Telephone 2205 (2 lines)

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A Plan for the Schools

AFTER seeing what one interested man can do in one School, and the benefits to be gained from making the youngsters keen on our sport, a number of the first division players have enrolled as "students" under the E.T.T.A. Coaching Diploma scheme. This is a scheme inaugurated by the E.T.T.A. under the Director of Coaching, Jack Carrington, in which players of proven playing ability are taught the basic needs for coaching, from both the playing and theoretical points of view, and are instructed in training methods of the modern style of table tennis.

After a short training period the student is entitled to take the 'test' for proficiency, and after passing this is entitled to be awarded the Coaching Diploma.

Now, this is perhaps an oversimplification of the Coaching scheme but it has the advantage of telling any player just what he has to do to become a qualified Coach, and more full details can always be obtained, so for the time being let the training course stand as outlined above.

If, as we hope, all of the enrolled students pass the test, and become Coaches, we hope to have about a dozen or more such accredited coaches in the city, and then it is the intention to approach the Education Authority with a view to getting into the Schools, to teach the youngsters of both sexes the basic rudiments of the game, and thus to instil into them a love of table tennis which will carry them on into later life.

For a moment, however, let us go back to the Coaching Scheme. The student has to attend a number of classes, courses and rallies in the S.W. Lancs. area. There are many players who are fine players but just do not know how to pass on their own knowledge, and there are those whose strokes are a little shaky, but who have that ability to teach, and the course is designed to complete the player's own game, and to teach them how to "put it over" to their pupils, mainly the latter! But there is no doubt that Liverpool has lagged far behind other parts of the country in this respect.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a coach should contact Jim Green at 43/45 Lark Lane for the necessary forms, which will be willingly forwarded.

To cover the maximum number of schools, obviously there will be a large number of Coaches required, and since the course is open to any player of known ability, it is obvious that there are quite a lot of Liverpool League players who would be acceptable as student-coaches.

To anyone who read the letter written last issue by Les French, it is clear that there is a large untapped source of talent lying dormant among school-children. In his spare time he has already produced about a dozen young girls, who play with some success regularly in the League, and from what he said, he has another large number already keen with the sport. In fact he has been obliged to limit the age-group to keep the numbers inside a manageable number! *What could 12 people do for the game if allowed the opportunity?*

So there is a definite need for student-coaches. Once we have them, we shall be in a position to approach the Schools.

The National Schools Team Championships.

In a further endeavour to promote table tennis inside the Schools, the E.T.T.A. are inviting all Schools to enter teams of either girls or boys in teams of four who must attend the same school until the end of the school year. Details have been sent to all local authorities in the area, and the competition play-offs are due to take place in May, 1967.

Entry fee is 10/- per team and provisional entry must be made during January. This allows the Spring term for trials and selections within the School, and the timetable works as follows:

- Return of provisional entries—
31 January, 1967
- Notification of venues—
15 March, 1967
- Your confirmation of entries—
10 April, 1967
- Probable Regional play-offs—
1st week May
- Probable National Finals—
End May/early June.

In addition, a Best-Trained group competition is held annually, in which the individual school can enter their own group.

Benefits to be Gained

The Schools have long been known to be the source of talent which has been allowed to go to waste. There must be many, many young people who leave school with no idea about table tennis at all, and unless they then join some Youth club, who have an organised table tennis section, they have been lost to the game PURELY from lack of knowledge. By some scheme such as this, it is possible to get these young people interested while still at school, get them keen on the game, and to build them into the right way ready to join clubs when they eventually leave. Every player coaching inside the schools can interest a number each year, and there *should* be a regular influx of new talent each season from this source. Not as raw beginners but as players of one or two years, who have been playing

matches between themselves before they leave. If each one of 12 coaches got only 5 players each year, 60 new young players would start off every season! And, the more coaches who were on the job should increase this total. So, *we need more and more willing coaches.*

Jack Carrington is due to hold a Coaches Study Meeting in Widnes on Saturday, 28th January. Any member of the League who is willing to help with this scheme and who wishes to attend this meeting should get the enrolment form from Jim Green right away, in order to get onto the roll of students beforehand.

This is one way in which the individual can help the League, at the same time getting a great deal of satisfaction from seeing the improvement of his charges. So, give us your support and see our League grow.

County Honours for Gordon



Years of hard work are now paying off for Gordon Birch, who is in the middle of the best season of his career, for from the start of the County Championships he has held his place in the Lancashire 'A' team, in which he is as yet undefeated.

Gordon started as a very small 11 year-old at Bootle YMCA, then at the height of their success, mainly

due to the advances of Jack Pattison, who arranged! or him to join there. From the first he showed a rare talent for the game, and his playing successes were followed year by year by the divisional correspondents for the "Digest" and for four seasons he progressed higher and higher, team by team, having played in the Liverpool Junior team from 14 years of age.

When internal troubles at Bootle YMCA caused a falling-off of interest inside the club Gordon went on to Cadwa and in his first season assisted them to win the second division championship, at that same season found him in the team for the Lancs. Juniors, when he was awarded his badge. And two years later he went on to his present club, Bohemians, from which date he has been undefeated in League or Cup!

Undoubtedly he would have become better known around Lancs. had he been able to play in Open tournaments, but his business demands that he works on Saturdays which prevents his attendance, but when last season he earned his place in the city 1st team, he came to the attention of the County selectors very rapidly, and his selection was no surprise to the bulk of Liverpool players.

He has future ambitions, of course, one of the main ones being to win the Liverpool 'Closed' men's singles, and being at the tender age of 19, it is highly probable that he will carry out this particular ambition before he finishes, but when and if he does so, he will always have enough good competition in the tournament to make it an honour well earned.

His own dedication has been the main reason for his steady advance to his present position, for he counts any spare time wasted which isn't spent practising, and with such an outlook as this we confidently expect to see him earn his place in the County first team before long. And it couldn't happen to a nicer fellow.

. . . and for Judy, too !

So much has been written in the "Digest" over the past few years about Judy Crafter that it becomes increasingly difficult to find anything which even *sounds* new to say about her, but this season has seen her attain another milestone on her table tennis career in that she seems to be established in the Lancashire 1st team. She has been playing in the Lancashire 2nd for some years, and had a couple of games in the 1st team last season, but couldn't retain her place. This year, however, she seems to have 'made' the 1st team, and we can only hope that she manages to keep her position for seasons to come.

At the coming Liverpool 'Closed'

tournament Judy will be defending three titles, and has won the women's singles events for the third time in 5 years, which together with her County appearances makes her about the most successful player since Andree Jones some 15 years ago.

In addition, her work as Women's representative takes up some of her all-too-curtailed spare time, for she hopes for practice sessions among players during the summer to help to improve city teams—on the lines laid down by Ron Jones last summer, and she has enrolled as a coaching student in the hope of playing a part in any future schools programme.

So taken all round, with a full time job and a house to run, Judy has her hands full !



Around the Divisions

—By JIM GREEN

DIVISION I.

	P.	W.	L.	D	Pts
Bohemians	12	12	—	—	113
L'pool Y.M.C.A.	12	11	—	—	105
Wav. Labour	12	10	1	1	97
Linnets	12	6	6	—	68
Rafters	12	7	3	2	64
Beauclair	12	6	5	1	59
Bath Street	12	6	5	1	56
Wav. Lab. "A"	12	5	5	2	56
Bohemians "A"	11	4	6	1	43
University	12	4	8	—	41
L'pool YM "A"	10	2	7	1	34
Linacre	11	—	8	3	26
Cadwa	10	—	10	—	19

Bohemians establish a lead.

After 12 matches the pattern is becoming more clear, and the Bohs. team are establishing themselves at the top of the table. I know that the table shows Liverpool YM there with 114 points against Bohs. 113, but this is due to their having played an extra game from the second half, against their own "A" team, which accounts for 9 of their points. From the first 12 weeks matches the YMCA have dropped no fewer than 14 points against 7 dropped by Bohs. and 7 points is a big lead to overcome in the second half. Wavertree Labour are clearly third, with a bunch of teams a long way behind, narrowly led by Linnets from Rafters.

Although third, the Labour team are having some say in the championship, for they drew with the YM 5-all a week after going pown 4-6 to Bohemians.

Nobody will disagree I think when I say that we now have three clear contenders for the drop to Div. 2 next year, in Cadwa, Colonsay and Linacre, but as to who will accompany them it is difficult as yet to say for there is a three-cornered fight between Bohs. "A", University and YMCA "A" or this unenviable spot. The signs are that the YMCA with two matches in hand v. Colonsay and rivals Bohemians "A" have the outstanding chance of pulling clear, and Bohemians "A" have a game in hand together with a two-point lead over University, which does seem to put the students team right in the dog-house, but the lead can change a few times at the bottom end before the next fourteen matches are over.

And from rumours going around it seems that there will be an enforced chance or two in the YMCA "A" team, with people leaving Liverpool at least for a time. But with the dog-fight at the top and another at the bottom, it is going to be a very interesting season.

Only two unbeaten players.

Only two players remain unbeaten throughout as yet, Gordon Birch and Peter D'Arcy, both of Bohs. Since the YMCA play at home v. Bohemians while the "Digest" will be at the Printers, either one or both of these may lose their 100% by the time you read this, but it is a fine performance in any case. Peter Hurworth had 100% also until he played these two, and as yet they are the only two he has lost, and there are quite a few with relatively few defeats, so there are a lot of little private wars being fought out at the same time, to give an added incentive to everyone.

It is remarkable how much damage can be done by the temper. At one match this half, three members of one team arrived very much "out of sorts" and since their team proceeded to go down rather heavily, their tempers rose . . . culminating in one of them refusing to shake hands because he had been beaten, and all three being as insulting as they could. And still nobody knows just why they came along in this mood. But this is the type of behaviour which the League can do well without. Nobody *likes* losing, but the majority can do so gracefully.

A few of the good performances from the first half: There have been many, but some have been far more surprising than others and are worthy of mention by reason of their unexpectedness. As an example take Jack Davidson's win over Roy Smith in Linacre's 1-9 loss to W'tree Labour, and Harry Reeve's double over Gordon Brownlee and Ted Gilmour; Keith Fitzsimmons beating of Trevor Owen and although a reserve beating Alec Gould and John Coveney in both Cup and then the League, and Rod McPherson did more than well in his double over Arthur Taylor and John Ogston. For Colonsay, Les French earned his place by beating up Eddie Birch.

DIVISION 2A

—By EDDIE CAMERON

	P	W	L	D	Pts
English Electric	12	12	—	—	104
Waterloo Park	11	9	1	1	77
Crawfords "A"	12	7	4	1	73
Bohemians "B"	12	6	5	1	64
Colonsay "A"	11	7	3	1	62
L'pool Jewish	11	5	5	1	57
Wav. Labour "B"	11	4	4	3	54
University "A"	11	6	4	1	53
Linnets "C"	11	5	4	2	52
Rafters "A"	11	3	7	1	52
L.P.A.S. "A"	12	2	9	1	44
Lussac	11	1	7	3	41
Sefton General	9	2	7	—	27
Pirates "A"	11	1	10	—	27

Predictable? Not a bit!

Table tennis is too predictable, said an opponent; look at English Electric and running away with it, and just as you said. Trouble is, the good teams also win their cup games, so there are no giant-killers to be had in our sport. Maybe, but funny things do happen, and for much the same reasons. The lambs that go out looking for slaughter and inevitably find it, but there are those teams who don't do that. They go out thinking that their opponents have a good record, but this time they've got a fight on their hands! Such a team is Crawfords "A". On paper, not a very good team, average age about forty (and one of them is only 26—no prizes for guessing which one!), but they go in fighting every time and a glance at the League table will show that this attitude pays dividends. I make no apologies for talking about my own team. Steady middle-of-the-tablers for so long that they seldom got a mention, but I am proud to belong to a team, in every sense of the word, and look forward to a long association with skipper Tony Thatcher, Tom Partington, Robert Conley and my old buddy from Victoria Park, Stan Harvey. I'm sorry to report that Stan is going into hospital for a minor op., and I'm certain that I can speak both for my team-mates and the division in general in wishing you a speedy return, Stan. Knowing you, it won't be long before you're pushing yourself out of trouble again.

Talking of team spirit, leads to club spirit and determination, and

thus to Colonsay (with its many ex-Fairlawn members). If ever a club faced up to its problems it's been Colonsay (but for losing their divisional status they would have renamed themselves "Nomads").

After many trials and tribulations in finding accommodation, at last they have a headquarters worthy of their ambition, and are to be congratulated on their success, which does not end in finding rooms, for they are doing very nicely in the League and in young Ian Wensley have apparently a real find. You can count on Colonsay in the final reckoning!

What about the forecast of possible relegationists. Well, the one about Lussac doesn't seem to have been too good, but the truth is that the last 12 teams of the division are fighting it out. A couple of bad defeats can drop a team a long, long way. Currently, Sefton keep Pirates "A" at the bottom, and they have had an upset with the loss of Bill Davis, but Duncan Sayle has stepped in to add stability to the jobs of secretary, captain, winning player, table erector, and (during my own visit) "deputy net threader". I sense a good spirit among the Sefton team, so don't go along thinking that they're a pushover. Rafters "A" are a sociable team, so much so that you can be almost talked out of your game. They are improving on recent seasons, having added Cliff Fay (of Anfield days), and Eileen Mansell is still one of the most reliable of the League's lady players. Ron McMullen has more than one trick up his sleeve, and Fred Winstanley and Bill Lamb make up the team. I imagine that in the first Table Tennis "Digest" some words similar to these were used to describe the Rafters side!

By the way, like many others, I do not particularly care for the job of doing these notes, so if any of you think that you can do it better, let me know, and also, if you have any news items for me, my name and address are on every score card. You know, those things which we neither fill in correctly, nor post promptly! Features on your club can be incorporated for a modest charge, and I do not expect to pay tea money to Tony Thatcher for weeks, after my opening paragraph.

DIVISION 2B.

—By JOHN O'SULLIVAN

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Linnets "A"	11	11	—	—	95
Mossley Hill	8	8	—	—	67
Crawfords	10	7	1	2	64
L.P.A.S.	11	6	4	1	62
L'pool YM "B"	11	6	5	—	56
Pirates	10	5	4	1	56
Palmerston	10	3	3	4	53
Trinity	11	6	4	1	53
Linnets "B"	11	3	5	3	51
Beauclair "A"	12	3	8	1	49
St. Edward's	10	1	7	2	41
L'pool Jew. "A"	11	1	9	1	29
Wav. Lab. "C"	10	—	10	—	4

The Great Championship Battle.

The end of the first half of the season is in sight, and the very close battle which has developed between Linnets "A" and Mossley Hill will be climaxed with the clash between the two at Linnets on January 2nd. As neither has yet lost nor drawn any match, the record of one or other is bound to go (and I think that a draw is very doubtful); there are 28 points between the sides but Mossley Hill have three matches in hand, which should put them more or less level when they catch up. Both John Kenwright and John Millward of Mossley Hill are yet unbeaten in the League, and they are both determined to keep their 100%. But on the other hand, the Linnets players are equally determined that neither shall retain the magic 100% after this match, so we have the ingredients of a magnificent match between the two sides. Nobody should need three guesses to know my own feelings, and obviously I hope for a Mossley Hill win, the first defeat for Linnets "A" with me able to take the micky from my mate Jim Green!

At the other end of the table, Wavertree "C" and L'pool Jewish are having a bad time. Wavertree have lost a lot of their old players, making this side much weaker than in previous years, with a team of entirely new players to this sphere. Jewish are finding it tough also, but they have collected a few more points than have the Labour club team. They did in fact collect a draw from Linnets "B", Tommy Johnstone collecting two against Palmerston also in an 8-2 defeat.

I must admit that he moves up the team and down again like a yo-yo! The YMCA "B" team usually end up somewhere near the bottom of the table, but this season, although they won't win any honours they will certainly be much closer to the top. This task would be made much more easy for them if they had Merali playing each week, for he must be one of the steadiest players in the division.

It is quite a long time since we had a girl playing at No. 1 in this division, but Maureen Coe has filled this spot on several occasions this year. Not very often, it is true, but her results achieved, demonstrate that she is there on merit, and not to push the men down to make it easier for them. And Crawfords are a team to upset any other on occasion. Mike Truman is playing well enough to beat almost anyone in the division and the side lies a comfortable third. I was a little disappointed to find that he failed to turn up in their match v. Linnets "A" for his game against Keith Fitzsimmons would have been well worth watching. Never mind though, there is always the return game! Crawfords did record a good win over Trinity on Trinity's own table, which I found unique in its ability to do things with the ball that one cannot entirely blame on gravity.

I am not just trying to have a go at Trinity's table, for LPAS have one just as lively as Trinity's is dead. Such characteristics are inherent in all tables, and they always add an advantage to the home team.

Beauclair "A" appear to be finding it much heavier going in our division than they did in 3A last season when they amassed 194 points from 26 games. To date they have only collected 49 from 12 matches, but this must surely be one of the divisions closes on relative ability between teams, with 13 points covering seven teams in the middle of the table.

The Rumjahn Cup seems to have developed into a fight between the tops of the two second divisions, but I think that this forthcoming round will show that 2B has the edge over 2A, with the possible exception of English Electric. I shall be at the final, whichever teams do get here.

Stop Press.

Linnets "A" 5, Mossley Hill 5

DIVISION 3A

—By JACK LAMBERT

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Beauclair "B"	12	8	3	1	82
Stanley House	11	8	2	1	76
Crawfords "B"	10	9	1	—	73
Bath St. "A"	10	6	3	1	58
L'pool YM "C"	10	4	4	2	58
Eng. Elec. "B"	8	7	—	1	57
St. Mary's O.B.	12	3	5	4	56
Colonsay "C"	10	4	4	2	47
Wat. Park "A"	9	2	4	3	43
Vagabonds	10	3	5	2	42
L.Y.C.A.	11	2	9	—	32
L'pool Jewish "B"	10	2	6	2	28
Waterloo	10	—	9	1	24
Pirates "B"	2	—	2	—	13

A 5-all draw was a fair result to the Stanley House-English Electric clash which broke the latter's proud 100% record, and also the 100% record of strong man Moon when he lost to Lyn, who won both his sets, as did his team-mate Foster. For English Electric, Longstaffe and Sill each earned a double. Undaunted, the Electric side then arrived at Crawfords, but on leaving George Moon was the only winner, having cracked, in turn the 100% of Mabel Francis. So, records went down left and right, leaving Evans of Crawfords with the only 100% left in the division.

I reckon that these three teams, Crawfords, English Electric and

Stanley House can (and will) sort out the championship between them. Stanley House would be my tip if they fielded their strongest team regularly.

There have been so many interesting games recently that it is difficult to pick out the best of them. Beauclair, without Maureen Coe, and Waterloo Park "A" each earned excellent wins over Stanley House, McKim and Kelly scoring doubles for Beauclair, and Rohrer and Scroggie for Waterloo Park. L'pool Jewish had to thank Cohen (A) and Lomas for a 6-4 win over Colonsay, and Liverpool YMCA "C" beat Beauclair with 'old faithfuls' John Donnelly and Brian Cullen very prominent. Brother Les Donnelly tried his best to prevent a LYCA win (Coulson 2 and J. Hughes 2) 6-4 over Waterloo, by winning his own two, but couldn't prevent an excellent first win for LYCA. A reported new signing by Bath Street should give Dumbell, who is having an excellent season, the support he deserves, and could change a 4-6 against Stanley House (Poster 2) and 5-5 against Sr. Mary's (Tony Delamere 2) into fair wins. Colonsay had a good draw against Beauclair, thanks largely to Harper.

REMINDER: Match Regulation 15.
"The official starting time shall be 7-30 p.m."

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DIVISION 3B

—By ALLAN CRAWSHAW

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Eng. Elec. "A"	10	9	—	1	77
Colonsay "B"	11	8	2	1	75
Coll. of Tech.	11	5	3	3	59
Eng. Elec. "C"	10	6	1	3	58
Bath St. "B" ...	9	6	3	1	58
University "B"	11	5	4	2	58
Trinity "A" ...	9	5	2	2	54
Linnets "D" ...	10	5	4	1	50
Bohemians "C"	11	2	8	1	40
Wyde Y.C.	10	2	6	2	38
Crawfords "C"	10	2	7	1	36
Orrell ...	11	1	9	1	36
L.P.A.S. "B" ...	10	1	8	1	31

Bootle YMCA—record expunged

English Electric for the Top.

English Electric "A" are pulling steadily away from the rest, with players like E. Smitton, E. McEllenborough and W. Neary very rarely dropping a set. There could develop a great battle for second place between Colonsay "B", Trinity "A" and English Electric "C". Eric Smitton, the English Electric "A" No. 1, surprisingly lost both sets, each in two games, against Wyde Y.C. His hitting must have been out of touch that night, although all credit to P. Sinclair and A. Morris for achieving what few others have been able to do in this division. The same P. Sinclair lost narrowly to Jock Catterson of LPAS "B", as closely as 27/25 in the third game, and in the same week Eric Smitton beat Catterson 21-19, 21-13. It surely is a funny game, and only a fool would predict with certainty the results of individual clashes!

A few other notable individual performances: D. Wright of Linnets "D", although playing in only about

half of the matches, had good doubles against Trinity "A", Colonsay "B" and Orrell, his opponents including players of the calibre of J. Hankin, (Trinity), Al Guy (Colonsay) and G. Brint (Orrell). Cyril Smith of Bath Street is almost unbeatable, as usual. He beat R. S. Wood, the difficult University "B" No. 1 quite comfortably and for comparison R. S. Wood lost narrowly at 22/20 in the third game. K. C. Chan (College of Tech.) pulled off a good win v. E. McEllenborough (English Electric "A") with the help of his spin service.

Since these notes are being written at the close of the old year, perhaps a few New Year wishes might be appropriate: I wish that clubrooms such as Colonsay, Bohemians and Linnets had better heating arrangements; that Wyde Y.C. had decent lighting over (or at least somewhere near) the table, and a less slippery floor; that the College of Technology room had dark coloured walls (this is being attended to). That at least a dozen players in the division (you must have met them) were issued with tranquiliser pills before a match and that Jack Lambert made sure that all his team Captains knew the combination of the lock on the "refreshments" cabinet. And finally that all clubs had the friendly atmosphere of about one-half of the division. Names can be invidious here, but I've no doubt you know the clubs I mean.

In case you think I had just had a "pint and a chat" before writing the last sentence of the notes in the last issue, I should say that someone omitted a line of what I wrote. It should have read—"eyes as we silently curse these players who..."

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DIVISION 4A.

--By J. C. McKIM

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Beauclair "C"	12	11	1	—	98
Knotty Ash	12	12	—	—	98
Maghull B.L.	12	9	2	1	78
University "C"	12	7	4	1	75
Panto	12	6	5	1	68
Colonsay "D"	12	5	5	2	62
Eng. Elec. "D"	12	5	3	4	60
Palmerston "A"	10	5	4	1	54
Coll. of Tech "A"	11	2	8	1	45
Knotty Ash "B"	13	2	8	3	39
C.F. Mott "A"	9	3	5	1	35
St. Patrick's	10	1	7	2	30
Linnets "F"	12	2	10	—	29
Rafters "B"	11	1	9	1	28

Two Clubs have a big lead.

After nearly half of the season's games have been completed the division is sorting itself out into three distinct groups, with 2 clear leaders, a group of five teams challenging for third and four h places (and a chance of promotion) and 7 others, all fighting strongly to keep clear of the bottom of the table. The League table may be a little more up-to-date, but as I write, that is the position.

At the top we find Knotty Ash and Beauclair "C", who after playing 12 matches each are level with 98 points apiece, 20 clear points ahead of their nearest challengers, Maghull. Knotty Ash are as yet undefeated, whereas Beauclair suffered their sole defeat to date 4-6 to Knotty Ash, and the return game, due to be played just about the time you are reading this will go a long way towards deciding the eventual champions, but the chances are that with the two teams so very close on points, it is more likely to be decided by the unexpected set or sets dropped by

one or the other to the lower placed sides.

Maghull, as I have said, are in third place, hotly pursued by University "C", Panto, Colonsay "D" and Palmerston "A". Strangely, altho' Maghull lead this group, it is quite apparent that Panto cause most trouble to the leaders, having taken 4 sets from Beauclair and 3 from Knotty Ash.

Jean Reynolds fine performance.

On the latest information it seems that Linnets "F" are currently at the foot of the table with Rafters "B" just 2 points ahead, yet it is from Mrs. Jean Reynolds of Rafters that we have what is in my opinion the outstanding performance of the season to date, with her fine double over the Knotty Ash top pair, Hogg and Murray, being the only player, as far as I can find out, to beat both of these two on the same night.

But, it Rafters provide the highlight, of the matches played to date, English Electric "D" must be awarded the black marks. Of a total of 10 sets forfeited thus far, 8 have been lost by English Electric. I trust that they will endeavour to keep up with the high standards set by the other teams in the division in the New Year.

We still have five teams interested in the Forrest Cup, although Maghull have to survive a replay v. Mossley Hill "A" to reach the last 8, to join Knotty Ash, Beauclair, English Elec. and Panto. At least one of these must go out as English Electric are due to meet Knotty Ash, but it is our earnest hope that we shall be well represented in the semi-final and final stages of the Cup.

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DIVISION 4B.

—By JIM BYRNE

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
St. Elizabeth's	11	8	1	2	81
Cadwa "A"	11	6	1	4	73
Hilltop	10	8	1	1	72
Bohemians "D"	10	7	1	2	65
C. F. Mott	10	5	3	2	56
Mossley Hill "A"	10	4	4	2	55
Linnets "E"	10	4	5	1	48
St. Edward's "A"	8	3	3	2	45
Stan. House "A"	8	3	5	—	39
Knotty Ash "A"	11	1	7	3	37
Bath Street "C"	10	1	5	4	36
Eng. Electric "E"	8	—	7	1	19
Linnets "G"	10	—	9	1	8

Edge Hill Boys Club—records expunged

Contesting the division championship are Hilltop and St. Elizabeth's, with Hilltop as my "tip for the top" . . . even though they were trounced by Mossley Hill "A" 7-3 with Roberts 2, Godby 2, Coughlin, Cowey and Pratt 1 each. Incidentally, Allan Pratt's victory was over his own brother. Graves, in as reserve for Lock won 1, and Chew got 2 for Hilltop. Chew's only defeat to date has been at the hands of Craddock (Cadwa "A") and in the same match Ken Westhead of Cadwa suffered two of his three losses of the season thus far by Chew and Lock.

As yet Hilltop have not pulled far enough away from St. Elizabeth's to feel over confident when they met, and it was bound to be a close thing when they did so. A close thing it was, with Hilltop coming home 6-4. Pratt, at 5, beat both Armstrong and Meath, Williams beating Armstrong, McGarragh overcoming Meath and the inevitable Chew double over Edmunds and West. St. Elizabeth's four came from both Edmunds and Mullarky beating Lock, West beating Williams, and Mullarky making it a double with a win over McGarragh.

Cadwa "A's" top three players, Westhead, Craddock and Richardson have, in their last seven matches, dropped only 6 sets between them, with Westhead unbeaten. Davies at No. 4 has lost only three sets in 6 games, but they regularly lose 2 at No. 5, which is the reason why they are so far behind the losers. Bohemians "D" are in a similar position with Ken Jones outstanding at No. 1, and assisted by Baker, Cohen, Audrey and Tom Gee, could find themselves with a lot more

points, but they also play a reserve, who loses his two, and over a full season's play that could be fatal.

Hard on their heels come C. F. Mott, with Woodward, Morris and Garside piling up the points, and also beating some strong opposition. Both Craddock and West have fallen to Woodward; Meath and Armstrong to Garside, and Morris has beaten Edmunds, and the other regular player, Harris has a sound 50% record. They will do better next year with a season's play behind them as experience.

Following these teams come Mossley Hill "A", St. Edward's "A" and Linnets "E" and while it is doubtful whether they can endanger the top positions they can surprise anyone. Hilltop can vouch for the surprise value of the Mossley Hill side and St. Edward's Nolan and Potter, and Linner's Spencer will at least extend any other player in the division. This was demonstrated when Linnets "E" lost narrowly 4-6 to Hilltop, with Spencer beating Sharp 25-23 in the third and Pratt 22-20 in the third, Jenkinson beating Lock 21-12 in the third and Meyer overcoming Williams 22-20 in the third.

At the foot of the division we have Linnets "G", English Electric "E" and Bath Street "C", all of whom have yet to record their first win, although Bath Street have earned four draws. The Linnets "G" team is entirely composed of girls, who must not be under-rated as C. F. Mott found, when Eileen Harrison took Morris to 21-23, and Annette Cross took Garside to 15-21, 20-22. Although beaten they were not completely hammered.

I end on a black note . . . Edge Hill expelled! This action was taken by the Management Committee with the utmost regret, but it had to be done as laid down in Rule 20 but please do not let it happen again. At least in this case we know where we are, but what about the clubs who turn up short. Obviously we must use every endeavour to stamp this out, and to this end I intend to name the teams who do this. During the past eight weeks only two clubs have offended, Linnets "E" and "G" teams, twice each one player short, and Stanley House four times short involving six players.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

—By JUDY CRAFTER

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Crawfords	10	9	—	1	91
Cadwa	9	9	—	—	80
Rafters	10	9	—	1	80
Palmerston	9	6	3	—	65
Sandown	10	5	4	1	52
Rafters "A"	10	4	3	3	50
Bath Street	11	5	6	—	47
Orrall	9	3	3	3	41
Bibby's	10	3	6	1	36
Dolonsay	11	2	9	—	35
Linnets	11	2	9	—	34
Bohemians	11	2	6	3	32
Linnets "A"	10	—	9	1	18

Gloria Burns still undefeated.

First of all I hope that everyone had a very good Christmas and that you all have a happy and prosperous New Year. Oh well! with Christmas behind us and all the extra inches in front, now is the time to become a fanatic and to practice all the time, if you want to get into that bikini in the summer. (I am the first to start).

At the break we have Crawfords at the top of the table, with 91 pts. from 10 games, followed by Cadwa with 80 (from 9 games) and Rafters with 80 (from 10 games). Both Crawfords and Cadwa are as yet undefeated, and the postponed match between them when they eventually meet should prove to be a real cracker.

Gloria Burns (Cadwa) is the only player in the division still to be beaten, and she leads the highest averages with a 100% record of 16 wins from 8 matches. There are eight players with records of 90% or over, and in order they are M. Francis 95.45%, B. Cain 95.45%, M. Lovelady 95.45%, E. C. Mansell 95%, M. Collins 95%, J. Crafter 93.75%, J. Randall with 90% and L. Rumjahn 90%.

With these contenders all playing among the four strongest sides, anything can happen in the matches between these four. But the League has been depleted by the loss of Maureen Coe's services to Cadwa. Maureen, who was studying at the Josephine Butler College in Liverpool has now left and taken a position as Assistant Warden of a Girls' Approved school in Wiltshire. I'm sure that everyone will join with me in wishing her the best of luck in her new walk of life. Joyce Randall, therefore, has moved from the city "A" team into the 1st and she deserves promotion,

for she is having a good season.

Crawfords played Rafters, who were without Eileen Mansell, but despite this Rafters held them to a draw, and later Rafters (including Eileen) met Palmerston. This time Eileen got both her sets, though the first against Barbara Cain went to 26-24 in the third, but she beat Maureen King fairly comfortably. Although the Palmerston team has now lost three matches, the game against Cadwa was very close, ending with a 6-4 win for Cadwa. Eight of the sets went to three games. Barbara Cain beat me to take away my 100%, and made it a double with another good win over Maureen Coe. Barbara is playing extraordinarily well this year, and has lost only the one set to date, to Eileen Mansell, and you already know how close this was! However, Cadwa pulled it off all right, in a good match in which the only drawback was the number of nets and edges, but these seemed just about to even out over the evening. It is far better this way, for nobody in either team should say that they lost because of luck!

There are some equally keen scraps around the other end of the division. Twelve wins between the bottom six teams with Linnets "A" right at the foot, without a win. But nine points only separate the next five teams, most of whom are comparatively new players. The youngsters from Colonsay are going well, and Barbara Newport has a win over Janet Rumjahn to her credit. Since Janet is currently playing in the Liverpool Junior team, and is the No. 1 for the Girls' team, it is a good win for Barbara. The League has seldom had so much female junior talent, and since so very many of them will still be juniors next season we have every right to hope for another good run in the Junior Girls' competition, the "Bromfield Trophy" again. This year's team is composed of Janet Rumjahn (Rafters), Jenny Morris (Linnets) and Barbara Newport, and they have as the non-playing Captain Kay Rumjahn, who has every reason to feel pleased with her charges. And I feel sure that the team will agree that they could not have a better person to be in charge. I consider that it is only right that I should make a special point of this team, for this is the first time that Liverpool has ever had a junior girls' side, and to have done so well.