

Volume XVII
NUMBER 3.



AM
FEBRUARY, 1967

Price 9d.

**TABLE
TENNIS
DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE DIGEST TENNIS

All correspondence must be addressed to the Editor
"Table Tennis Digest"
43 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17.

Published during the months of November, January, February, March and April.

Editorial Board.

Editor : J. R. Green

Assts. : J. O'Sullivan and P. A. Rix,

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

Vol. XVII

FEBRUARY, 1967

No. 3

Editorial

I START with an apology. This issue has been delayed due to the illness of both my wife and myself. Since I have no aid in sorting, typing and setting out the copy for the Printers, it had to await my recovery. The final two issues should be out in time however.

I have had two letters sent to me written in such terms as to be unacceptable for the magazine. One of these however was a personal attack upon myself, which put me into an awkward spot . . . to print it, then to sue myself (as Editor) for libel, or to reject it, and by doing so to admit the charges made therein. The first course was obviously stupid, so the letter was rejected, but the writer was asked to re-write it in less lurid tones. No reply was received.

The subject of the complaint was *my* conduct of a match between two teams from our two clubs. The letter accused me of "lying" and "cheating" at this match in order to win for my club. But **I WAS NOT EVEN PRESENT AT THE MATCH!** I was sitting quietly at home **all evening** while the match was being played about a mile away!! I never went near. Now this is taking matters too far altogether. I've been called some pretty hard things in my career, have been insulted by experts, but this one is ridiculous! How does one "lie" and "cheat" at a match when you're not even there?

I have put this case fairly, even if I've not mentioned any names, mainly since I wanted the members to know the substance of the letter, and the actual truth of the incident. When the letter was received I knew nothing of what had happened at the match, although I made it my business to find out later. Any gossip along these lines can be judged accordingly.

It would have been far better to have been able to print the letter and to give the truth at the same time, but the language used made this impossible (although no bad language was used). But this does illustrate the difficulties of a magazine. So, *please*, if you have any complaints, please let us have them, BUT put them into such a way that there can be no fear of libel! Neither my pocket, nor the League funds can stand this, and therefore such letters must be rejected!

TWIN-STREAM LEAGUE

A glance at the League tables tends to show the value of the twin-stream set-up. When it was introduced a few years ago it was known that a few years would have to pass before the full effects were seen, but now, in nearly every division there is a battle going on at the top, and another at the bottom of the League, and the majority of teams are covered by only a handful of points. This system is getting the stronger sides to the top, and allowing the weaker to find their own level far more quickly than could be done under the old "straight divisions" set-up, and each year will find this process of sifting of teams going further. The days of the one-horse race seem to be numbered, much to the benefit of all concerned.

Leading Averages

NOTE. While every care is taken in compiling these records, no responsibility can be accepted for any error which may occur.

* Denotes at least 75% of Sets played at 1 or 2. Cup matches included.

DIVISION 1.	P	W	—
*P. E. D'Arcy (Bohemians) ...	36	35	97.32
*G. Birch (Bohemians) ...	34	33	97.06
V. D. Chesham (Bohemians) ...	34	31	91.17
V. Franco (Y.M.C.A.) ...	34	30	88.23
E. Mandaluff (Y.M.C.A.) ...	34	30	88.23
N. R. Jones (Y.M.C.A.) ...	32	28	87.50
G. K. Smith (Y.M.C.A.) ...	30	26	86.66
*P. S. Hurworth (Wav. Lab.)...	34	29	85.29
W. F. Dean (Linnets) ...	26	22	84.61
D. Butterworth (Y.M.C.A.) ...	30	25	83.33
E. Moran (Wav. Lab.) ...	36	30	83.33
E. M. Klein (Bohemians) ...	34	28	82.35

DIVISION 2A

*A. Reid (Wat. Park) ...	32	31	96.87
*F. Pheysey (E.E.C.) ...	34	32	94.11
C. Bradshaw (E.E.C.) ...	36	33	91.66
W. Spencer (Wat. Park) ...	28	25	89.28
W. Bintley (E.E.C.) ...	36	31	86.11
J. Molyneux (Wav. Lab) ...	26	21	80.76
G. Reid (Wat. Park) ...	24	19	79.16
*E. Barnes (E.E.C.) ...	32	25	78.12
H. Kewley (E.E.C.) ...	36	26	72.22

DIVISION 2B

*J. Kenwright (Mossley Hill) ...	28	28	100.00
*J. Millward (Mossley Hill) ...	24	23	95.85
R. Lavin (Linnets) ...	34	32	94.11
E. Johnson (Linnets) ...	34	30	88.23
*M. Truman (Crawfords) ...	28	24	85.71
R. Hudson (Mossley Hill) ...	28	23	82.14
*K. Fitzsimmons (Linnets) ...	32	26	81.25
*P. G. Wass (Linnets) ...	34	27	79.41
J. O'Keefe (St. Edward's) ...	26	20	76.92
D. Underhill (Linnets) ...	32	23	71.87

DIVISION 3A.

*Miss M. Francis (Crawfords) ...	28	27	96.42
*G. Moon (E.E.C.) ...	34	31	91.17
*A. Lyn (Stan. House) ...	30	27	90.00
M. R. Dumbell (Bath St.) ...	30	26	86.66
L. Evans (Crawfords) ...	32	27	84.37
L. Foster (Stan. House) ...	32	26	81.25
*H. Brown (Stan. House) ...	34	26	76.47
K. Ali (Stan. House) ...	20	15	75.00
D. Corkery (Y.M.C.A.) ...	24	18	75.00
N. Dodson (Y.M.C.A.) ...	24	18	75.00
C. Porter (Crawfords) ...	20	15	75.00

DIVISION 3B.	P	W	—
A. Abbot (Trinity) ...	30	28	93.33
W. Neary (E.E.C.) ...	32	29	90.62
E. McEllenborough (E.E.C.) ...	22	19	86.36
*D. Money (E.E.C.) ...	40	33	82.50
*J. S. Hankin (Trinity) ...	30	24	80.00
C. Bundred (Colonsay) ...	36	28	77.77
*E. Smitton (E.E.C.) ...	26	20	76.92
*C. Smith (Bath St. ...	28	21	75.00
*R. S. Wood (University) ...	32	24	75.00

DIVISION 4A.

*L. Hogg (Knotty Ash) ...	36	33	91.66
*D. Murray (Knotty Ash) ...	36	32	88.88
D. Eaton (Knotty Ash) ...	36	32	88.88
*S. Draper (Maghull) ...	28	23	88.38
C. Braithwaite (Knotty Ash) ...	34	29	85.29
D. Berry (Beauclair) ...	36	29	80.55
*A. Hay (Maghull) ...	34	27	79.41
*J. C. McKim (Beauclair) ...	34	27	79.41
J. B. Roberts (Beauclair) ...	24	19	79.16
*W. Cornthwaite (Panto) ...	38	30	78.94
C. Stock (Beauclair) ...	34	26	76.47

DIVISION 4B.

*K. Jones (Bohemians) ...	24	22	91.66
*R. Chew (Hilltop) ...	30	26	86.66
*G. Edmunds (St. Eliz.) ...	30	26	86.66
*P. Godby (Mossley Hill) ...	20	17	85.00
*P. Coughlin (Mossley Hill) ...	34	28	82.35
M. Mullarkey (St. Eliz.) ...	30	24	80.00
*K. Westhead (Cadwa) ...	28	22	78.57
F. Armstrong (St. Eliz.) ...	24	18	75.00
*A. Roberts (Mossley Hill) ...	24	18	75.00
T. Gee (Bohemians) ...	30	22	73.33
D. Meath (St. Eliz.) ...	30	22	73.33
G. Richardson (Cadwa) ...	30	22	73.33

WOMEN'S DIVISION.

M. Lovelady (Rafters) ...	28	27	96.42
*M. Francis (Crawfords) ...	28	27	96.42
*E. C. Mansell (Rafters) ...	24	23	95.83
G. Burns (Cadwa) ...	24	23	95.83
*J. A. Crafter (Cadwa) ...	18	17	94.44
*B. Cain (Palmerston) ...	28	26	92.85
L. Rumjahn (Rafters) ...	28	25	89.28
C. J. Randall (Palmerston) ...	26	23	88.38
M. Collins (Crawfords) ...	22	19	86.36
*J. Reynolds (Rafters) ...	32	27	84.37
B. M. Topping (Palmerston) ...	18	15	83.33
B. Black (Cadwa) ...	28	23	82.14

The "Closed" will be held

I AM pleased to report that a venue has been found for the Liverpool Closed, which will be held at St. Mary's Church Hall, Northdale Rd. (off Picton Road), Liverpool 15. The tournament will be played this year on Tuesday to Friday, April 4th to 7th — Friday 7th being the Finals night.

For various reasons we have had to make a change from our normal procedure of playing on a Saturday. This may not be a bad change as there will be no clash with Football, or the many other activities held on a Saturday. Get your Entry Form from your Secretary. Please fill it in and return it right away before you forget, and *please do try to support the Finals night.*

We shall have the use of the two halls, each holding four tables. The playing conditions will be good, and the Canteen arrangements an improvement on last year.

I feel that some answer or comment should be made to various items mentioned in the Editorial last month. Mention was made of the fact that we had invoked the new rule made last year and that Edge Hill had been asked to withdraw. It was queried whether the sponsors of the amendment gave consideration to all types of clubs before putting this rule change forward. Well, the sponsors of the amendment gave consideration to all types of clubs before putting this rule change forward, and the Editor as one of the sponsors was well aware of this fact. I feel that the rule as it stands is correct. My letter to Edge Hill asking them to withdraw as they were unable to fulfil their commitments crossed in the post with a letter from Edge Hill resigning from the League as they were unable to meet their commitments this year.

The Editor then raised the position of the University club in regard to the new rule. Now, the University have played in this League for a good number of years and they have always sought the co-operation of other clubs in the re-arrangement of fixtures to dates within the University term, and so far, they have received the assistance of other clubs. Had this new rule been in force for

the whole of their membership of the League, the Committee would not have had to call upon them to withdraw a single team. I cannot see that this position is going to suddenly alter because of this rule, unless any particular club or clubs deliberately go out of their way to try to embarrass the Committee or the University club.

The rules printed inside the score book were mentioned, and it was implied that any club playing to these rules would have a good case if their opponents took exception to this. Let it be clearly understood that the score book is not an official publication of this League. Its a book printed by the Committee for the assistance of clubs in keeping their records. You are not even compelled to have one.

This is no excuse for the rules not being up-to-date in the score books, and the Editor's complaint in this connection is a valid one. Had the matter been mentioned to the Fixture Secretary before the books were printed I am sure they would have included the revised rules, of which you were all informed at the Annual General Meeting two years ago, and through the medium of the "Digest" in which they were printed in full. So please don't come the 'old soldier' act. You will only be wasting your time and the Committee's.

Don't forget the Liverpool 'Closed' from April 4th to April 7th — Finals on April 7th.

IN SELF-DEFENCE!

The team who raised the question of the service rule only joined the League this season, so how they knew what transpired at the A.G.M. two years ago, or what was printed in the "Digest" is a bit of a mystery.

And, in these days of expanding clubs and fewer clubs, spare match nights are also more scarce. Two clubs that I know of ONLY agree to the University's games on their own tables being altered provided that it is agreed that, in the event of it being impossible to re-arrange these, these matches will be forfeited by the University. That these

matches have been re-arranged to date tends to prove that nobody wishes to embarrass either the Committee or the University, but who can tell whether these two (and

other) clubs can continue to help out in this manner in coming seasons? In special cases such as this, the Committee should be allowed some discretion.

EDITOR.

THE NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME

We now have nineteen of our members remaining as coaching Students under the Scheme, one having been "passed out" as qualified on January 28th. Frank Thomas had started some long time earlier than the others, which accounted for this.

There is plenty of room for still more members on the Course, and anyone who is interested in joining can obtain the necessary forms from J. R. Green at 43-45 Lark Lane, Aigburth, Liverpool 17.

Letters to the Editor

ON BATS

25th January, 1967.

Dear Sir,

After a lay off for the last three years, I have returned to league table tennis and have been unpleasantly surprised at the type of bats that are now apparently allowed.

When the sandwich bat was legalised a few years ago I reluctantly purchased one, purely as an equaliser and have been forced to play with it ever since.

There are still people who use the ordinary pimped rubber bats, there are also a few who use a plain wooden bat, but recently I had the sad experience to come up against another type entirely. This consists of a highly varnished wooden face with a layer of sponge on the opposite side. When playing the person who had this bat I soundly thrashed him in the first game, he then changed to this deformed instrument and proceeded to win the other two games of the set.

Could somebody please tell me when sanity is going to return to the game and stricter control enforced against ridiculous bats such as these.

It is quite amazing how many players are still playing for pleasure in spite of having to contend with people who will use anything so they can win.

Yours faithfully,

R. S. CRADDOCK
(C.A.D.W.A. T.T.C.).

ON STRAIGHT DIVISIONS

4 Rhosemor Rd.,
Southdene,
Kirkby.

Dear Sir,

All of Keith Fitzsimmons' problems plus Mossley Hill's and Linacre's were conclusively answered in the circular sent out by my Committee to all clubs last season, proposing that this, and many other problems would be solved by reverting to seven straight divisions. However, about 50—of voting power didn't fancy the idea so we are left with a system which provides quick promotion for a team once every decade and in between times creates numerous contentious points and anomalies.

Another item that was turned down by the clubs, which I can never understand is that they are quite happy about giving a Cup team with a maximum of six games a runners-up medal and yet are opposed to a medal for the number two spot in League competition when a team has battled through 26 games, and in these days of the points system may even have a better record.

I find Keith's remarks about Division 1 rather interesting. I have always felt that a first division of ten teams would be ideal, and would solve the problem of the "not quite good enough" teams, and, let's face it, the "We don't want to go up" groups. An extra premier Cup competition would solve the problem of matches.

I reckon the letter by Les French was the most stimulating and exciting to appear in the "Digest"—its possibilities are immense.

Yours faithfully,

JACK LAMBERT
(English Electric T.T.C.).

THE MAGAZINE

Dear Sir,

Is the magazine in its present form answering all our requirements? My Committee feel it is not. We are now in the sixth month of our seven month season and to date we have received two magazines.

Correct me if we are wrong, but the crux of the problem appears to me that we cannot afford to pay enough for quick delivery dates from the Printers.

May we make it quite clear at the outset that we are FOR the "Digest" and more than appreciate the excellent work done by the Editorial Board, but we feel that when it is received it is out of date with League tables and divisional notes, also that the magazines do not cover the season equally, with very little in the first half and a glut at the end.

We would suggest therefore (also assuming that League tables are number 1 interest point) that:

- (1) The magazine be reduced to two bumper issues instead of five;
- (2) That League tables are issued each month.

And we would suggest that the enlarged issues go out around Christmas and at the end of the season.

The benefits we would derive from this would be that the magazine should be cheaper to produce. The

money saved may enable more to be spent on printing and help a speedier delivery. The Editorial Board and the correspondents would have more time to consider their contributions, and quality in content should improve. The divisional notes would improve immensely with more time at their disposal, for correspondents could produce a more comprehensive picture of their divisions. At the moment notes have to be prepared quite often in haste to meet target dates for printing which are beyond the control of the Editor.

We intend to be purely constructive and in no way critical. We feel most people enjoy the "Digest" but we feel that it needs tightening up somewhere. What do you think? More important still, what does the Editor and his Board think? These are the boys who do all the hard work and know all the answers.

J. A. LAMBERT
(Hon. Sec. English Electric).

AND ON MANNERS

10 Oldfield Rd.,
Liverpool 19.

Dear Sir,

Does the League know that a team called C. F. Mott are playing a new game called "chuck bat"?

It seems that the table tennis ball is hit over the net and on to the table. If you miss the ball, or do a bad shot, you use a *four-letter* word. Finally, you throw your bat at a chair, or at the floor, and, if possible, break your bat.

If anyone is interested in buying any broken bats to play "Throw bat" apply to C. F. Mott, Div. 4B.
Play the game!

A. T. PRATT
(Mossley Hill T.T.C.)

ROYal 4231

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Success for the Girls!

PRIDE of place must be given this month to our Junior Girls team, who have eventually gone out of the Bromfield Trophy in the quarter-finals, to Ipswich, losing 4-5. For Liverpool, Janet Rumjahn was the most successful player, winning her three sets, Jenny Morris (Linnets) getting one, and Jean McKenzie (Colonsay) did not manage to win one. However, Jean went into a winning position in one of her sets and lost mainly through inexperience, not knowing quite how to ram the advantage home, and in another set, Jenny Morris actually held match point, but could not get that one invaluable point! So, it is perfectly true to say that the girls were as close as one point from victory. It was a great effort, and since two of these same girls are still available for two more seasons for the junior team, we must feel that we are in with a better chance next year.

I must here thank Kay Rumjahn, not only for her captaincy, which was appreciated by both the players and the Committee, but also, together with husband Ted, for affording hospitality first to the Northumberland side, then to Ipswich, far and beyond the normal level. I hope that her team will bring her more joy next year, although this one has been a fine show on the part of the girls.

... AND IN THE NORMAN COOK TROPHY

After defeating Hyde in the first round, we had to meet Blackburn, away, in the second. Gordon Birch was working, so Eddie Clein stood in for him, and Elizabeth Loughrey took Judy Crafter's place. We won 6-3 against a side which seemed stronger than the one we met in the Wilmott Cup earlier in the season, but who we meet now—I simply cannot say. Two weeks are allowed between rounds, but since there seems to have been no arrangements for the notification of results to the Leagues, it is a matter of waiting until our opponents write to me with three dates! Which must happen eventually, for it is now certain that by the rules of the

competition, Liverpool is the *only* League without the slightest chance of a 'home' match, so the opposition are obliged to contact me first. But the slip-shod arrangements made, and the lack of reasonable time between rounds, do no credit to the County Committee, to whom the competition will stand as a masterpiece of poor organisation. However, it's a good job that the players are good natured and don't mind last minute call-up for successive rounds.

The teams continue to do fairly well, and it seems clear that the first team will finish well up the division. With 6 matches played, we have won four, and lost two (to Bolton and Stockport). We ran into trouble against Stockport, for Roger Hampson was home from the South, and he is worth four sets to his side. But we can still finish second or third. It all depends on the last few games. On Friday, 10th March we play Nelson at home in the last home game of the season, and we hope to win here although it will be far from easy.

The Men's 'A' team has now won four of their seven matches played, having lost to the Business Houses League and beaten Preston 'A' since our last issue. Against the Business Houses League Ian Burrows won 2, Roy Smith 1, and together they won the doubles. Rod McPherson had an unhappy evening, for he played extremely well without quite getting there. The side are fairly well placed, but at present it is impossible to forecast the eventual position.

The Ladies' 1st team have eleven points from 7 matches, and much depends on the result of their match v. Stockport, as to whether or not they will finally be second or third. Against Manchester, who were at full strength, Judy Crafter got 2, losing only to Connie Moore, and Mabel Francis won 1. Together they won the doubles to make it a 4-6 defeat. Unfortunately, Joyce Randall wasn't able to play, and her replacement, Elizabeth Loughrey, was unable to win, although doing quite well. It's a long time since our girls beat Manchester, but it seems as

though it can still be done, even next season perhaps!

The Ladies' "A" team have now edged away from the foot of the table, having won 1 and drawn 1 from their eight games played. Jean Reynolds has replaced Myra Lovelady and has strengthened the side a lot, and Margaret Collins has at last started to win and to gain confidence, the absence of which has been a real factor in her "City" career. Muriel Cox also is more successful than formerly, so that they may yet win more points.

The Youth team, with 5 wins from 7 matches, can finish in either 2nd or 3rd position according to the results of the last games. When David Watson (YMCA) left Liverpool Ray Lavin (Linnets) came into the team and it seems that the team is quite as strong now as formerly. Together with Peter Wass and Allan Dean, they form a strong combination.

The Juniors have not played since

the last "Digest" but now that Allan Davies (Bohemians) is recovered from his accident, he should strengthen the team for their last few matches.

The Committee have been pleased to award a first-team badge to Joyce Randall, and it is a well deserved honour. Roy Smith, Ian Burrows and Rod McPherson were awarded their "A" team badges and again these have been well earned. Youth team badges have already been granted to Peter Wass, Allan Dean and David Watson, and it seems almost certain that more will be awarded before the end of the season. At this point I would like to thank the non-playing Captains for their unceasing efforts on behalf of their charges, and those clubs who allow the use of their premises for City games so often. In these respects I have no space to go into details, but I shall have more to say on their behalf in another issue.

In Which We Serve . . . —By JOHN O'SULLIVAN

SO you think that you will be able to get through all this season without having to umpire a game? Now I know that there are a few people, who, for one reason or another just don't like the job, and then there are those who should not be allowed to do so at any price!

Let us assume that you have been called on to umpire the next game. You know the rules, or at least we *hope* that you do, well enough to apply them at the relevant times. How far are you willing to allow the rules to be bent before you warn a player? Does your judgment vary according to whether or not you like the player, or if he is a member of your own club?

For some time now I have been a frequent visitor watching both Cup and League matches, and have been both spectator and umpire at both men's and women's City games, and I must confess that in the past I have been quite as guilty as anybody, in being slow to caution the erring party, happy in the knowledge (?) that although breaking the rules he was not gaining anything from it. But then, when I did pull up a player, only to learn that his service, which broke every rule in the book was the only way in which he could introduce the ball into the game. I was shaken rigid! Any other

method, or attempts at another service went either into the net or under the table!

Thus I realised that there are a vast number of players, who developed a bad service and had been allowed to get on with it, had improved the rest of their shots but had not improved a service which, after all, was winning them points!

Even since writing this article I've been watching one game where a player was highly indignant because a point was given against him for catching the ball on his bat. It took the captain of his team some moments before he could persuade him that he wasn't being robbed.

And do not think that it is only newer players who have suspect services. For it was in a City (Men's) game that I saw one of our players whose hand appeared to be crippled with rheumatoid arthritis—holding the ball between the ball of his thumb and the little finger.

I can remember one case of a player who had approached the table at the Liverpool Closed in a track suit. When his attention was drawn to the rule on the illegality of such attire, his remark to the umpire was that the opposition did not warrant its removal, for it was too cold. He did remove it when it was threatened to report him to the referee.

VIC CHESHAM

(aged 44 years) of Bohemians

—By Peter Rix

VIC CHESHAM first became interested in the sport when he saw an exhibition given by the international Hyde brothers at the Caldry Grange Grammar School. He was 12 years old at the time and began to play the game in a local club in West Kirby. Although he played often, Vic did not take any noticeable steps to improve his game up to the point when he was conscripted into the Army.

Once he had settled down in the 'mob' he began to take a serious interest in the game, and with help from a camp enthusiast, began to improve quite considerably. Altho' his interest had increased to a marked degree, he had not as yet played any competitive table tennis.

When he was demobbed in 1946 and returned to Merseyside he joined the Ministry of Supply Club in the League's defunct West Region—Div. 2. From there he went to Rafters for two seasons and then Livex (Min. of Labour) for two seasons. Then in 1954 he joined his present club, for whom he has played quite regularly to the present day.

Whilst on a short working holiday to Blackpool he joined a club and played in the league there, achieving the honour of representative play for Blackpool 'B'. On returning in Bohemians he established himself in the 1st string mainly at 1 and 2 to the 1st Division. From those beginnings he has had his measure of undoubted success.

Probably his first recognition came when he was with Ministry of Supply, being selected for Liverpool 'A'. Since that time he has represented the City on several occasions in the

1st team. He won a League medal in the West Region with his club and has since been within an ace of many others whilst with Bohemians.

Among Vic's more memorable achievements was the time in 1959, when he and Moya Jones won the Mixed Doubles title in the Cheshire Open. Vic partnered by Bernie Hand reached the doubles final of the Lancashire Open several years ago (it's too long ago to be exact—about 1950) and in so doing deposed Johnny Leach who was then World Singles Champion, and R. Roberts in the semi-final—only to lose in the final.

In the League's Closed Tournaments, Vic has had many successes including the Men's Singles and Mixed Doubles titles, added to which in 1965 the Veteran Singles title. Although table tennis occupies a lot of his time his other main interest is tennis. He was a member of Bohemians Liverpool and District league winning team of recent years.

He has in the past also put in a great deal of time in the Youth Movement with Old Swan Boys' Club and was directly instrumental in the opening and running of the Roundabout Youth Club in Huyton.

It is obvious that here we have a personality who has, during his 20 odd years in competitive play, been extremely successful. He is, may I add, still an opponent to be reckoned with in the 1st Division. One who by his experience and example, shows the steadiness and consistency which young players would do well to copy, in the faster—ever faster game of modern table tennis.

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Around the Divisions

DIVISION 1

By JIM GREEN

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Bohemians	19	18	1	0	166
L'pool YMCA	19	18	0	1	166
Wav. Labour	20	15	1	4	153
Rafters	21	12	5	4	113
Linnets	20	8	7	5	111
Bath St.	20	9	7	4	100
Beauclair	20	8	10	2	94
L'pool YM 'A'	20	7	10	3	88
Wav. Lab. 'A'	20	6	9	5	86
University	22	6	14	2	79
Bohemians 'A'	18	6	10	2	73
Cadwa	18	1	15	2	53
Linacre	18	0	13	5	44
Colonsay	19	3	15	1	44

Things are now warming up very nicely indeed for Bohemians who had dropped only three points from their first ten matches and have dropped no less than 21 in their next nine, and from having all the appearance of comfortably walking home as League champions. They are currently dead level at the head of the table with the YMCA and at the moment the YM have more of a championship look than have Bohs.

The trouble is, of course, that while the YM have a team of five players, all of whom can put up a good show in any position from 1 to 5, Bohs. cannot match them man for man. They rely on Gordon Birch and Peter D'Arcy not only to give them a four sets advantage (which they normally do) but also to beat the best players in the opposing team. So, when the opponents change around the order to match their stronger players against the weaker of Bohemians they run into trouble. The YM might be affected by such a switch but not to the same extent as is shown most conclusively by their playing records which are so nearly the same throughout.

I still fancy Bohs. but not unless they pull themselves together sharply. At present they have the look of a badly rattled side.

At the other end the relegation fight goes on, and here again it has been hotted up by the signing of Geoff Pullar by Cadwa. A glance at

the table seems to show that they cannot escape, but with a player of this calibre at No. 1, and all others of the side one place lower, the entire team is considerably strengthened and other teams will have to look to their laurels. I think it is safe to forecast that Linacre, Colonsay and the University will find it virtually impossible to avoid the drop, but Cadwa might yet get away.

There have been few surprises among the other teams of the division apart from Linnets, who seem to have dropped a few silly points—until the teams are examined. Against the lowest sides, Linnets have invariably fielded weak teams, giving their 'A' and 'B' team players a taste of 1st division play. Had they played throughout at full strength they would certainly have been some 20 points better off, but on the other hand they would have been introducing players without any idea of 1st division play next season, with the advent of their 'A' team which seems likely, so the loss of the few points concerned is in the nature of an investment.

The Readman Cup final is to be a repeat of last year, Bohemians v. Liverpool YMCA. Nobody gave Bohemians 'A' any chance against the YMCA, and that is as good a forecast as any yet made, for the YM won in a canter. In the other game a lot depended on the order of the two teams. Both teams switched their players, and in order to 'catch' either Peter D'Arcy or Gordon Birch Linnets were obliged to play Ralph Gunnion at No. 3. This paid off, for he met D'Arcy and Eddie Clein. The others didn't fare so well in the lottery however and Bohemians scraped home 6-4. On the night they were the better team, but only by a very little, so the words 'scraped home' are justified.

Who will win the final? You guess . . . I don't want to . . . but I do not need three guesses to work out what our "Echo" correspondent feels in the matter. Is there another team (or club) in the League other than B-----?

DIVISION 2A

—By EDDIE CAMERON

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
English Electric	17	17	0	0	150
W'loo Park	18	14	1	2	124
Crawfords 'A'	19	9	6	4	108
University 'A'	21	10	6	5	103
Linnets 'C'	19	9	6	4	96
Rafters 'A'	19	8	9	2	96
Colonsay 'A'	17	11	5	1	94
L'pool Jewish	19	8	9	2	93
Bohemians 'B'	19	9	9	1	91
Wav. Lab. 'B'	17	4	7	6	80
Lussac	19	2	10	7	79
L.P.A.S. 'A'	18	3	12	3	67
Sefton	18	3	15	0	56
Pirates 'A'	18	2	14	2	53

The struggle to avoid the bottom two places is warming up. Pirates 'A' are on the bottom rung with a little too much leeway to make up, but Sefton are gradually closing the gap on L.P.A.S. 'A'. The Police are old hands at this game. I think they must have been a little disappointed at the prospects of not being involved in the relegation struggle (which is their right by tradition) and so have allowed themselves to slip a place or two just to give Sefton a challenge. Jimmy Conroy will now, I am sure, demonstrate how easy it is to hover on the brink without falling in, for with Nelson, Chalkely, Wood and Oakes there is too much talent to fail. Sefton, of course, will not agree with me, and to help prove me wrong they have recalled Bill Davies, ex-Secretary, and of course a most useful player. Lussac and Wavertree Lab. are the next two in line, but both are confident teams, playing relaxed table tennis which goes with middle of the order teams, and neither is likely to have a calamitous run necessary to give the lower teams a chance.

Wavertree Labour are one of the League's glamour clubs. Their success in recent years is all the more meritorious as it comes from home-bred talent. Their 'B' team, relegated from Div. 1 last year, was expected

to do great things this season, but unfortunately the team disintegrated and the current side was made up by promoting last year's reserves. Far from being outclassed, however, this team has gradually settled down and has sufficient promise to build gradually into a challenging force in a year or two. Jack Molyneux and Ken Jones are ably supported by Brian Jessop, Norman Burrows and A. Christie, with occasional help from secretary Ken Armson as reserve.

A club with two 1st division sides no doubt provides practice facilities, necessary to improve one's game, but not all clubs are so fortunate. One of these, Waterloo Park had good reason to bemoan their lack of practice this week, when they played their Cup semi-final against Mossley Hill at Crawfords, well supported by a sprinkling of Div. 2A admirers. We have heard a lot about Mossley Hill's ability, and checking comparative records there is no doubt they are more outstanding than our own Waterloo Park. We all thought however that Waterloo Park would put up a good fight. Unfortunately it is my sad duty to report that our team were outclassed, and almost humiliated by a confident, workman-like Mossley Hill side, who allied craft, service subtlety and ability to give themselves the edge in all phases of the game. We are all hoping that English Electric will level the score with Division 2B in their clash with Linnets 'A'.

A lot has been said about the comparative strengths of Divisions 2A and 2B, and there is no doubt that this year 2B is the stronger, due in a great part to the fact that the two teams relegated to 2A both lost their entire strength and were re-constituted. Do not blame the officials for relegating them to the wrong Division, for the composition of teams is not known when the divisions are made up. Although, come to think of it, you may as well blame the officials, for after all we blame them for everything else!

DIVISION 2B

—By JOHN O'SULLIVAN

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Linnets 'A'	18	16	1	1	149
Mossley Hill	17	16	0	1	141
Crawfords	17	12	3	2	107
L.P.A.S.	17	9	5	3	99
Pirates	18	8	8	2	98
L'pool YM 'B'	18	8	7	3	91
Trinity	18	9	6	3	90
Beauclair 'A'	19	7	10	2	88
Linnets 'B'	18	5	7	6	87
Palmerston	16	5	7	4	69
St. Edward's	17	1	13	3	60
L'pool Jewish 'A'	17	1	14	2	42
Wav. Lab. 'C'	16	0	16	0	9

Although I don't think anything startling has happened in the division since the last "Digest" nothing is more sure than that Crawfords deserve the first mention, for after losing 4-6 on 9th January to Palmerston, 10 days later they became the only team as yet to beat Linnets 'A', top of the table, which they did 6-4. And Liverpool Jewish grabbed 10 welcome points to keep away from that fatal bottom place, when they met Wavertree Labour. The withdrawal of Pirates 'C' means that only one team is due for relegation, for which the Jewish side must be feeling grateful.

Beauclair 'A' are having mixed fortunes, with a good win over Pirates 7-3, even without their No. 5 who failed to turn up. Ray Johnson won the only set for Pirates apart from the two sets won as walk-overs. Then Beauclair only managed to draw with Jewish. Granted they were without John Ball, but this should not have made all that difference.

St. Edward's are in the position of having won only 1 match from 15 played, and since they finished in the top half of the table last season with the same players, it makes one wonder what has gone amiss. There is no fear of relegation though and next year they may have

better fortune. They are worth more points than they have won this year.

As I write these notes the Cup semi-finals have just been played. First, Mossley Hill beat Waterloo Park 9-1, but I don't think that the score represents the ability of W'loo Park quite fairly. Allen Reid found John Millward far too fast, but against John Kenwright was leading 10-3 in the first game. In trying to speed up the tempo he found his lead being whittled away and he eventually lost in two straight. Had he only displayed a little more patience the result may have been much closer for he seldom made a mistake in his attack when he took his time. G. Reid, whom I believe is his brother, showed the same talent for the game but although he always looked dangerous, he gave me the impression that he was fighting a lost cause.

The other semi-final between Linnets 'A' and English Electric was a completely different story, with Electric winning 6-4. This match could have gone either way, as was proven from the fact that four of the Electric's sets were won on a deuce in the third game. Linnets played well below their normal standard, and with Electric playing some excellent table tennis the best team won on the night. Although it may have been the occasion which affected the younger Linnets players, it certainly didn't bother Dennis Underhill who fought back against Bert Kewley from 14-20 down to win 22-20 in the third. Dennis played tremendously well and although he seldom appears in the limelight, he invariably puts up a great fight, win or lose.

I was told that Fred Pheysey of Electric has not yet been beaten. Well he showed a fine repertoire of shots, and even so had some little difficulty in beating Keith Fitzsimmons in another set which went to a deuce in the third, so let's wait and see what happens in the final.

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DIVISION 3A

—By JACK LAMBERT

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Crawfords 'B'	18	6	1	1	137
Stanley House	17	14	2	1	128
Beauclair 'B'	19	9	8	2	112
Eng. Elec. 'B'	16	14	1	1	112
Bath St. 'A'	17	12	4	1	103
L'pool YM 'C'	17	9	6	2	102
W'loo Park 'A'	17	6	7	4	83
Colonsay 'C'	18	6	10	2	79
Vagabonds	17	6	8	3	75
St. Mary's	17	3	10	4	65
L'pool Jewish 'B'	18	4	11	3	60
L.Y.C.A.	16	3	12	1	56
Waterloo	17	1	15	1	35
Pirates 'B'	8	1	7	0	22

The "top three" saga concluded its first episode with a weakened Crawfords team losing their first game of the season to Stanley House 6-4. This of course followed the latter's draw with English Electric who in turn had been hammered by Crawfords. But despite these conflicting results Crawfords pull steadily if slowly away from their challengers.

When they all meet again something conclusive will have to happen to change the trend, and without being involved themselves Bath St. 'A' could also have a say in the championship for they have had a few very convincing wins since the signing of their new No. 1 Edwards.

Les Evans was the last of the division's players to lose his League roo— but not without a battle, losing 21-18, 17-21 21-23 to Ali of Stanley House. But the real sen-

sation of the last session was the Vagabonds draw with Crawfords thanks to Martin and Lowey who won two each. Mabel Francis won two for Crawfords.

A couple of good wins for Waterloo Park over the very steady St. Mary's side by 8-2 and a 6-4 against Beauclair Bridge winning his four sets and Rumph returning to strengthen his team with a double.

Liverpool YMCA and Beauclair show good and bad form in turn. The YM drew with Liverpool Jewish (Donnelly 2 and Corkery 2 for YM and Lomas 2 for Jewish) and Jewish in turn drew with Beauclair for whom Margaret Collins got a double, and Burman scoring two for Liverpool Jewish. Beauclair's new No. 1 Jim Robinson, although not as glamorous as Maureen Coe, should help to counteract her loss to the team. But not, I'm afraid to the division, for we shall all miss Maureen, whose charm and adventurous play we shall all miss.

Please try to co-operate with Pirates in their back-log of matches. It is in the interests of the division as a whole to get these matches all played.

Mabel Francis appears to be our top player at present having lost only twice. But she is closely followed by the pen-hold twins, George Moon and Allan Lyn, who have each lost only three.

Will the winner of the Restricted Singles again come from this Division—we shall never know unless everyone enters?

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DIVISION 3B

—By ALLAN CRAWSHAW

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Colonsay 'B'	19	15	3	1	130
Eng. Elec. 'A'	16	15	0	1	129
University 'B'	21	12	6	3	113
Bath St. 'B'	18	11	6	1	106
Coll. of Tech.	20	8	8	4	102
Eng. Elec. 'C'	18	10	4	4	101
Trinity 'A'	15	10	3	2	89
Linnets 'D'	18	7	9	2	83
Crawfords 'C'	19	4	13	2	77
Orrell	18	2	12	4	65
Bohs. 'C'	18	3	13	2	60
L.P.A.S. 'B'	18	3	14	1	60
Wyde Y.C.	16	2	11	3	55

There have been some excellent matches since the last notes. Bath Street 'B' drew with English Electric 'A' Cyril Smith and L. Crossley each recording a double for Bath Street, the former beating Eric Smitton, English Electric's No. 1 by the astonishing score of 21-8, 21-8! English Electric 'A' are in the fortunate position of being able to play D. Money (from their 'C' team) whenever they need a reserve. He is at least as good as anyone in their 'A' team and I imagine that he will be a member of this team in the 2nd division next season. At the same time recent results of Bath St. 'B' suggest that if they keep going like this they could well finish up as runners-up of the division.

Trinity 'A' with a mixed-up order managed to win 6-4 over English Electric 'C'. Val Lee must wonder whether she is coming or going—one week at No. 1, the next at No. 5, and so on.

College of Technology and Colonsay 'B' had a long friendly battle which ended 6-4 in Colonsay's favour seven of the sets went to three games, and the match was not decided until the third game of the last set of the evening. Colonsay seem to be good at winning sets which go to three games. They won five of the seven in this match, and when they beat Wyde Y.C. 10-0, six of the sets went to three.

The final positions at the bottom of the division are far from clear and there is very little difference between playing standards of teams near the bottom and a number of those who are comfortably in the top half. A number of recent results confirm this, for instance: L.P.A.S.

'B' 4 Trinity 'A' 6; Orrell 5 Coll. Tech. 5; Bohs. 'C' 5 Orrell 5; Coll. Tech. 3 Crawfords 'C' 7. I do not think that any team deserves relegation from this division.

I have received a modest card from the Chairman of Trinity pointing out that one of their players has a 100% record (in League matches) and wanting to know why they had not been mentioned in this column or in the "Echo"? Also, that a few words of praise would be appreciated. Putting to one side the "Echo" bit which has nothing to do with me I wonder if there is any significance in a 100% record when the player concerned does not feature at 1 or 2 in his team? unless, of course the players above him have similar records. Does it not really mean that he *should* be playing higher in the order and that his ability and potential are not being exploited fully by his team? Our personal playing records are very closely determined by our positions in the team order and of course the division in which we play. This is in no way a criticism of the player concerned A. Abbott who is a friendly player and a good opponent.

DIVISION 4A

—By J. C. McKIM

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Knotty Ash	20	20	0	0	165
Beauclair 'C'	20	18	2	0	157
Maghull	20	15	4	1	136
Colonsay 'D'	21	10	8	3	119
University 'C'	20	11	6	3	118
Panto	19	11	7	1	117
Palmerston 'A'	18	9	6	3	100
Eng. Elec. 'D'	18	9	5	4	93
Coll. Tech. 'D'	21	5	14	2	88
Knotty Ash 'B'	20	5	12	3	67
C. F. Mott 'A'	18	4	13	1	55
St. Patrick's	17	3	12	2	50
Rafters 'B'	20	1	17	2	49
Linnets 'F'	20	2	17	1	45

According to the score-cards which have been provided for me to compile these notes my own club Beauclair 'C' lead the division from Knotty Ash by 23 points, but my own information tells me that Knotty Ash have now drawn ahead in the race having about a seven point lead and would seem to have the title safely sewn up. The return match between these two teams was as anticipated a very close affair.

Sets were won alternately until the score reached four-all. Then Knotty Ash won the last two events both at 21-19 in the third game. Seven sets went into the third game Knotty Ash winning four of these and of the three won by Beauclair one was at 21-19 and another at 24-22. Hogg and Braithwaite won two sets each for Knotty Ash with Murray and Eaton adding one each, and for Beauclair Berry got two with Stock and myself getting one each.

The most improved team in the division is undoubtedly Maghull, who very ably led by Stan Draper, have recently taken three points from Knotty Ash (with Draper emulating the earlier feat of Jean Reynolds, by beating the Knotty Ash 1 and 2), also taking four from Beauclair in a match where Maghull led 3-0 and then lost the next six sets on the run.

They seem certain to finish in third place and will almost certainly get to Division 3 next season where if their present improvement continues they will be a force to be reckoned with in that division.

Panto are at present lying fifth (I think) not far behind Maghull. Bill Cornthwaite and Ron Fowler at 1 and 2 are proving as difficult as ever to beat, but Alec Trevor of Palmerston another player with many years experience did manage to beat Ron Fowler. This is the only defeat suffered by either of the Panto players in recent matches.

Colonsay 'D' with a very young team are doing very well, as are University, and English Electric 'D' are picking up a few more points whilst not giving away any walk-overs I'm pleased to note.

Linnets 'F', Ratters 'B' and St. Patrick's are fighting it out at the bottom of the table, but C. F. Mott may be either top or bottom of the division—I just would not know as they never bother to fill in the record at the bottom of their cards, which, to say the least, just makes things a little more awkward than they normally are.

I hope we shall see a good entry from this division in the 'Closed' and I confidently expect the winner of the Restricted Singles to come from the division!

The Forrest Cup final will certainly be an inter-division battle, as Knotty Ash play Beauclair in one semi-final

and Mossley Hill meet Hilltop in the other, but whichever of our teams reaches the final, give them plenty of support on March 29th.

DIVISION 4B

—By JIMMY BYRNE

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Hilltop	17	13	3	1	119
St. Elizabeth's	17	12	3	2	115
Bohs. 'D'	17	11	3	3	102
Cadwa 'A'	15	9	1	5	97
Mossley Hill 'A'	16	9	5	2	97
C. F. Mott	16	10	3	3	89
St. Edw'd. 'A'	16	6	8	2	77
Linnets 'E'	15	3	9	3	61
Stan. House 'A'	15	4	11	0	61
Knotty Ash 'A'	17	2	12	3	58
Bath St. 'C'	14	2	9	3	42
Eng. Elec. 'E'	16	1	14	1	37

Note: Linnets 'G' withdrawn

—Records expunged.

The Championship battle has hotted up for the moment Hilltop and St. Elizabeth's have each earned 122 points from 17 matches, with their return game due at any moment. St. Elizabeth's had a good chance to go ahead when Hilltop could only win 22 sets from 4 games, but I have just heard that in their own last two matches St. Elizabeth's could only acquire nine points themselves.

Some comparison can be drawn between the two sides, for both played v. the identical Stanley House side, each fielding the strongest team. Hilltop won 8-2, and St. Elizabeth's 7-3 which leaves little or no noticeable difference between the two. What it does show is that now that Stanley House have a settled team they are worthy opponents for anybody and it is a pity that this team hasn't done duty throughout.

Following these two are Cadwa 'A', Bohemians 'D' and Mossley Hill 'A' following in that order with C. F. Mott in 6th place. C. F. Mott have only themselves to blame for their position, for they conceded a 10-0 walk-over to Bath St. 'C' at home. Lower down the table there are none who can now challenge these six, and since there is no fear of relegation the remaining matches will be played purely for fun. English Electric 'E' and Bath St. 'C' are firmly entrenched at the foot of the

table with the odds against English Electric.

English Electric earn also the black mark of the month for playing short v. Bohemians. This is the second time that the side have offended in this way, so please don't let it happen again.

A great deal of help has been afforded Cadwa 'A' by N. Wright, currently No. 5. His record of 13 wins from 14 sets played (losing only to Williams of Hilltop) compares more than favourably with 3 from 16 sets played by other occupants of the position.

"YOU ARE A TWIT!" was the message received by me from the brothers who are NOT brothers, to whom I extend my apologies for the error (January issue).

English Electric 'E' had their moment of glory for the season when they beat Linnets 'E' 6-4, due mainly to a double by Ellard over Jenkinson and Spencer. And Woodward (C. F. Mott) had an excellent win over ex-first division Ken Jones of Bohemians at 21-11 in the third.

By the time you read these notes the semi-finals of the Forrest Cup will have been played, and we are assured of a 4A v. 4B clash. I am certain that everyone in the division will agree with me when I say to Hilltop and Mossley Hill, that whichever reaches the final they are assured of the full support of the entire division.

I hope to see a good entry from our division at the 'Closed' for there are several amongst us who could well win the Restricted Singles. We shall never know unless they all enter! So see you at the 'Closed'.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

—By JUDY CRAFTER

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Crawfords	18	15	1	2	145
Rafters	18	16	0	2	144
Cadwa	16	14	2	0	120
Palmerston	17	11	5	1	117
Bath St.	19	8	9	2	89
Orrell	17	8	5	4	87
Sandown	15	8	5	2	82
Rafters 'A'	15	6	5	4	74
Bibby's	17	3	12	2	56
Colonsay	17	3	14	0	55
Linnets	18	4	14	0	55
Bohemians	19	4	12	3	55
Linnets 'A'	15	0	14	1	24

Palmerston are doing well lately, with three good wins to their credit. The first against Baty St. when they won 10-0, none of the games very difficult apparently. Then, against Linnets the score being 10-0 again with only one set going to the third game and finally a very convincing win over Crawfords the final score being 7-3. Mabel Francis won her two sets beating both Barbara Cain and Joyce Randall, both going to three games and Muriel Cox beating Maureen King, again in the third. These were the only sets won by Crawfords, and Palmerston ran out resounding winners. Unfortunately these victories were marred because Palmerston could not raise a team to play against Orrell, and conceded a 10-0 walk-over. This was disastrous to their hopes for it now seems impossible for them to finish in the top three of the division.

The postponed match between Cadwa and Crawfords turned out to be as expected a most exciting game with the final result 6-4 for Crawfords. I had two very close sets just beating Mabel Francis 22-21 in the third, and losing 19-21 in the third to Margaret Collins who played exceptionally well all the evening, beating Betty Black also 21-15, 21-10. Margaret has improved very much recently, possibly due to her having started to win sets in the City "A" team, which seems to have given her confidence. Barbara Topping also played very well, gaining a double, by means of wins over Betty Black and Gloria Burns.

Crawfords also had a very close battle with Rafters, a draw being a fair result. Five of the sets went to three and Rafters won both of the doubles.

A word of congratulation to Eliz. Loughrey who played as a reserve in the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy match against Blackburn, away. She stepped in at very short notice and won her singles event, the final score being 6-3 for Liverpool. Well done, Elizabeth!

It was hard luck for the Junior Girls' team on February 18th when they played Ipswich in the quarter-final of the Bromfield Trophy. They lost 4-5 and were one point within sight of victory—so close did they go. They have done more than well to get this far, especially as it is the first season in which we have had a Junior Girls' team.