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

Vel. XVII

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No. 5

Editorial

WHO would be the Fixture Secretary? At best his is a job which would scare the pants off most people, and at worst . . . well, judge for yourselves. Throughout the season many matches have been postponed, some for Cup ties and other genuine reasons, some for the convenience of the players. Now in the vast majority of these cases the first indication of a postponement given to him is the non-appearance of a score-card, so after waiting for a reasonable period he sends out periodically, requests for outstanding cards to the Secretaries of those clubs affected. Some reply, some don't. One or two clubs get their outstanding games arranged from time to time throughout the season . . . some advise him . . . some do not. But the cards arrive, so these games come off his "outstanding list". And in the meantime more matches are put off, so the length of the list increases rather than decreases. He still knows nothing of what's happening, of course.

By the end of the season the effect has become something of a "snowball" and, since the compiling of League tables has now become more or less hopeless, he is becoming NOT a statistician, which is his main function, but a form of detective! To my certain knowledge he is obliged to spend two or three hours at a stretch in a draughty hallway trying to contact various Secretaries by 'phone in an effort to find out what has happened in these games. His wife and his daughter spend hours again during the daytime (while he is at work) on the 'phone, trying to get similar information. And some sort of order emerges from the chaos, due to their combined efforts.

Cannot the clubs themselves help out by (1) not postponing matches without due cause, and, (2) playing outstanding games within a reasonable time. The present hit-or-miss system has got right out of hand . . . AND KEEP THE FIXTURE SECRETARY ADVISED.

AND, AT THE "CLOSED"

Again the "helpers" at the "Closed" become further depleted annually, despite pleas beforehand for aid. This year, apart from the same band of Committee members there were but four people willing to help out. **Ken Armson** (Sec. of Wavertree Labour) was in attendance throughout, and he worked extremely hard, as did three young enthusiasts who came along with the Referee, but who *are not connected with the League in any way whatever!* Without their help, the tournament would not have run anything like as smoothly, but surely it is a sobering thought that a League of about 750 members has to obtain outside help to run a tournament for our own players. Next season one or two volunteers would be most welcome.

Letter to the Editor

2, Charnalue Avenue,
Great Crosby,
Liverpool 23.

Dear Sir,

On the second night of our Closed championships I had the misfortune to witness an exhibition of bad manners and unsportsmanlike behaviour, the like of which I have never seen in any sport and hope never to see again.

In a 1st round Singles match a certain young player made no attempt whatsoever to win his event. When serving he would merely put the ball into play and then stand still, with his arms by his sides, making no effort to play his opponent's return.

Even allowing for a certain amount of youthful ignorance or bravado, I cannot believe that this player did not know that he was reducing our tournament to the level of a farce, and that by his attitude of "I *could* beat you, but I'm not interested in winning this match" he was insulting his opponent and, indeed, all officials and players concerned with the Championships.

May be I am wrong, but I can think of no plausible reason for throwing any game in any sport, and I complained to the Tournament Referee, Mr. Brian Leeson, hoping that this young man might be reprimanded, and possibly withdrawn from the Consolation Singles, an event in which he was obviously keen to participate.

With so many young players watching the "Closed" and taking part in it (congratulations to those who are coaching and encouraging them) I still think that our Committee should reprimand this player or even seriously consider refusing his registration for next year, that is assuming that his own club has not already done so. We must make it clear to everyone that we will not tolerate dubious acts of exhibitions of gamesmanship within our League.

Finally, may I offer a word of congratulation and praise to the winner of this strange match, a youngster named K. (or M.) Jones, from, I believe, Rafters T.T.C., who appeared to be playing in his first "Closed". To say he was bewildered and embarrassed by his opponent's tactics is to put it mildly, yet he accepted and handled the situation in a manner which many an older player would have envied.

Yours sincerely,

ALEC DAVIDSON
(Linacre T.T.C.)

6 Winchester Avenue,
Waterloo,
Liverpool 22.

Dear Sir,

As a comparative newcomer to the League I have an interest in the past records of the League such as the respective winners of the Closed tournament, and the winning teams of the various divisions and cups over the past years, so that, if I ever have the good fortune to play against the top players of today and yesteryear, I will know what honours they have won, and it will give an added interest to the game. I am sure that this information would be appreciated especially by the younger members of the League and those who have just joined.

Being a member of the Business Houses League I find that they print all their information on the back two or three pages of the handbook. Also given are the names of previous Officers over the years, which I feel is a good idea, thus enabling members to appreciate how long each officer has served.

I realise that this information is going to give someone a headache initially, to delve back into past records, but once compiled it will just mean adding to the list each year. I am sure that the effort would be worth while.

Yours sincerely,

R. S. ALLCOCK
(Beauclair T.T.C.)

The Annual General Meeting

It has been the policy of the Committee in the past few seasons to have the League Championship trophies presented by a member of the Management Committee at the recipients last match of the season wherever possible. This season, with Easter week, and then the Closed tournament causing the cancellation of so many matches during the last two weeks of the season, we found it impossible in most cases to do so and the trophies for those winners who have not yet received them will be presented at the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at the Liverpool YMCA on Tuesday, 30th May, commencing at 7 p.m. If you are due to receive a League championship trophy please try to attend this meeting no later than 8 p.m.

The Liverpool Closed is covered elsewhere in this issue, but there are one or two interesting points arising from the tournament which should be given some consideration. The attendance for the Finals on the Friday evening was quite good and compared very favourably with

recent attendances on a Saturday evening, when a certain proportion of the spectators were competitors who had played earlier on in the day and who remained on the premises. The entry, also, was heavier than in the previous year despite the late circulation of entry forms to Club Secretaries and not, as previously direct to each League player.

This would appear to suggest that players and spectators prefer not to turn out, at least to table tennis on a Saturday, and it would be of assistance to the Committee if you would make your views known at the A.G.M., for although the venue this year was adequate, it was by no means perfect and the Committee will be starting to look for another one for next season. In this your views will greatly help.

One final word of warning. Your Club will be automatically fined £1 if it is not represented at the A.G.M. so please make certain that at least one member of your Club is free to attend on that evening.

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Reflections on the Season

—By Philip Reid

With the end of the season comes the time for reflections. It started as a season in which it seemed spin services would dominate everything. These serves did indeed cause a considerable amount of concern but as the season went on the real threat seemed to diminish to some extent. There can be little doubt though that a tighter service rule is called for and it seems likely this will be forthcoming.

The tournament I thought was best organised? The English Open was in the main a season of excellent tournaments. There was a lot of great play but the only really disappointing final was the Men's Singles at the Merseyside. The most improved player of the season? I've thought a long while on this one and I would plump for—Karenza Smith. The keenest tournament player? Easier this one—Sussex's Roger Chandler, who although not having his best season (partly attributed I suspect to having to play in the 2nd Division) lost none of his

enthusiasm and entered practically every tournament. The most sporting player? Les Haslam of Middlesex I would choose here though there must be many with equal claims. After losing a magnificent set with New Zealand's Murray Dunn at 22-20 in the third he came off all smiles though he must have been very disappointed at losing. The best win of the season? Jim Langan's win over Chester Barnes at Brighton. Jim showed ice-cool temperament, a wide range of shots and plenty of ability in winning in three straight. The best non-serious set? Ralph Gunnion's with Geoff Pullar at Scarborough. The set I regret missing most? Ebby Scholer's win in the quarter-finals at Stockholm over North Korean Kim Chang Ho. He won 20-22, 19-21, 21-19, 21-15, 23-21. It must have been some game—but then Ebby is some player.

Yes, it has been a great season—see you next season I hope.

COUNTY HONOURS FOR TWO PLAYERS

It has come to my notice that two of our players have been awarded County badges, having earned them throughout the season. GORDON BIRCH has been awarded his Lancashire "A" team badge, and BARBARA CAIN the badge for the Cheshire "A" team. Both awards have been well earned, and on behalf of every member of the League I am delighted to offer hearty congratulations. It is good to know that some of our players are able to command County places against strong opposition from players of other Leagues. We can only hope that both will eventually earn the full Badge.

Congratulations to those teams having earned promotion, and commiseration to those unfortunate enough to be going down. May they soon regain their former eminence.

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The Liverpool "Closed" Tournament, 1967

— By Brian Leeson

The Final of the Men's Singles proved to be the most entertaining and exciting Final in recent years. The result of 21-17 17-21 21-16 in favour of Gordon Birch illustrates how close David Butterworth came to bringing off the major upset of the tournament. Dave had earlier knocked out the fourth seed Frank Thomas in two straight games in the Quarter-final and then convincingly ousted Eddie Clein in the Semi but I don't think many people gave him much chance against Gordon. He certainly was not of this opinion himself however and when he took the second game at 21-17 it was clear that Gordon was not going to attain his ambition without a fight.

Until the semi-final Gordon had not conceded a game to any opponent and his victories over Fraser Farquahson Arthur Taylor Peter Turtle Reg. Hetherington and Val Franco were all in two straight games but in his semi against Peter D'Arcy he seemed to be heading for defeat. Peter won the first game comfortably at 21-13 and had established a big lead in the second. It looked all over. But suddenly fortunes changed and Gordon took the second game 21-18 and cruised home 21-14 in the third. Incidentally Peter D'Arcy also had the distinction of not conceding a game to any opponent until the semi-final. He had overcome such opponents as Bill Harris Phil Metcalf Trevor Owens and George Smith all without any real difficulty.

Bobby Owen had earlier caused an upset by defeating the seeded Roy Jones 23-25 21-16 21-13 but then he lost in the Quarter-final against Eddie Clein in two straight.

In the Men's Doubles Gordon Birch and Peter D'Arcy proved once again that they are too strong for any other pairing and they retained their Doubles title without any real challenge. Only Roy Smith and Trevor Owens took them to three games but in the Semi-Final they disposed in short time Dave Ferguson and Ronnie Rumjahn and in the Final against Roy Jones and George Smith there was never really any doubt.

Judy Crafter retained her Women's Singles title by defeating Barbara Cain 21-12, 21-19 in the Final. Judy's hardest games had been against Jean Reynolds who took her to three, and then in the Semi-final against Mabel Francis, who also took a game from her. Barbara Cain, however, had reached the Final without conceding a game to any of her five opponents, who included Myra Lovelady in the Quarter-final and Margaret Collins in the semi. Margaret had recorded a good straight games win over the seeded Joyce Randall to reach the Semi-final stage.

In the Women's Doubles, Barbara Cain and Joyce Randall teamed up to take the prize without any trouble. No games were conceded in any round, and in the Final they disposed of Jean Reynolds and Myra Lovelady 21-10, 21-19.

The Mixed Doubles Final saw the defeat of the previous holders, Frank Thomas and Judy Crafter by Peter D'Arcy and Barbara Cain 21-19, 21-15. Again in this event the winners had at no stage conceded any game. Frank and Judy, however, had had a tough Semi-final battle against Roy Jones and Pauline Lawrenson, winning 21-16 in the third.

The Restricted Singes brought in 50 entries this season, a very good response, and some of the games were very entertaining to watch. The top seed, Mabel Francis, reached the Final where she defeated the unseeded Billy Neary 21-13, 21-18. Mabel's earlier opponents had included A. C. Parker, R. Pedder, D. Brookfield, R. Cook and K. F. Baker, while Bill Neary had accounted for C. Stock, W. Ellard, G. Benson, S. Draper and D. Murray. So Mabel became the first holder of the "Larry Coldrick" Cup.

In the Final of the Juniors, Albert Mitchell beat Philip Metcalf 21-18, 21-19, while the Veterans' Final brought together the same contestants as last year, Vic Cheesham and Peter Rumjahn. Vic retained his title with a convincing 21-13, 21-16 win.

In the Consolation events, Mrs. Muriel Cox defeated Mrs. "Pinky"

Rumjahn 11-21, 21-15, 21-18 to win the Women's Section, while the Men's prize went to Arthur Taylor who beat Peter Short 21-15, 21-19.

The tournament was held this year in St. Mary's Church Hall, Wavertree, and although conditions were a little cramped, especially with spectators and officials having to walk so near to the actual playing area, most players accepted the difficulties without a grumble. A number of players I spoke to seemed to be pleased with the idea of having the Finals on Friday instead of Saturday. This was further em-

phasised by the large audience, which assembled to see the Finals an audience which increased as the evening wore on, until the exciting finale.

Many thanks must be extended to all those who helped in the organisation of the tournament, before, during and after. So many people were concerned that to mention a few here would be unfair to others. I prefer just to say—thank you to everybody for making the 1967 Liverpool "Closed" a successful tournament.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

—By J. R. Green

There is little or no news for these notes for as yet I haven't had the final League tables and any mention of final positions must be guesswork. But our men's "A" team had to concede a walk-over to Blackpool "A" in their last match. John O'Sullivan, the team Captain, had to go to Manchester on business during the afternoon, and despite all efforts I could find no-one free to take the team. So a 'phone call to the YMCA where the players were waiting and another to our opponents and the match was lost! But I have learned from experience — NEVER again concede a match. Just do not turn up (like Oldham ladies) haggle about the date, then the starting time and the Lancashire League

Committee will void the match—despite the waste of time to the opponents. This tip is well worth remembering . . . !

The Management Committee have awarded badges to the following:

"A" team badge to Mrs. E. Loughrey; Youth team to Ray Lavin; and Junior badges to Janet Rumjahn and Jenny Morris for their play in the Junior girls' team.

My personal thanks to the non-playing Captains of the teams and to those clubs who lent their premises so very often for city matches—Crawfords Colonsay L.P.A.S. L'pool YMCA English Electric and W'tree Labour. Without such help the matches could never be played at all. Many thanks.

Around and About . . .

The Editor would like to thank Ken Armson, the Secretary of the Wavertree Labour Club, who on reading that someone was required to write wrappers, volunteered his services for this soul-destroying job, and who has written the wrappers for this issue, thus relieving the Editor of several hours of hard labour. Many thanks.

Those visiting Linnets next season will find that the clubroom is much larger (they hope) for their members have cleared a site adjacent to their existing room, and propose to build an extension to house a further three or four tables. Having raised a certain amount of cash, they have bought three ex-Army huts, from which the construction of the building is possible, and the members them-

selves forming a strong labour force, they hope to complete the job by the end of June or during July. Remembering that the majority of the Linnets players are in the "teenager" group, this forms an effective answer to those who always criticise our younger League members.

Eddie Cameron, our Fixture Secretary, has recently won the Club Championship of Crawfords—some 30 years since his last success in a similar tournament, at Victoria Park. There is no doubt that this was well-earned. A glance at the roll call of names at Crawfords ensures that.

So well done, Eddie! Since you've now left the Junior age group, the selectors will have to consider you for the Youth team next season!

Around the Divisions

DIVISION 1	By JIM GREEN				
	P	W	L	D	Pts.
L'pool YMCA	26	25	0	1	224
Bohs.	26	24	2	0	220
Wav. Labour	26	19	3	4	188
L'pool YM 'A'	26	12	10	4	135
Ratters	26	13	8	5	133
Bath St.	26	12	7	7	133
Linnets	26	9	11	6	132
Beauclair	26	10	13	3	121
Wav. Lab. 'A'	26	8	13	5	120
Bohs. 'A'	26	8	15	3	101
University	26	7	16	3	95
Cadwa	26	4	19	3	93
Colonsay	26	5	19	2	68
Linacre	26	0	20	6	57

The division ground slowly to a halt for the majority of clubs, interest only being sustained by the top two clubs, and by a couple at the bottom. For the majority, it almost seemed that the players were merely going through the motions, for on all sides the main theme was, "we haven't a lot of interest in the last few games, so we're playing purely for fun now." Whether this is a sign that the season goes on too long or not is not for me to judge, but for one reason or another the loss of keenness to win during the last few weeks of the season has been very apparent.

However, there was no lack of interest in the destination of the championship, and when Bohemians met the YMCA for the final match each side had 217 points, so the stage was set for another full scale battle. However, after a preliminary scuffle there were no incidents and for the second time this season the Y.M. beat their rivals 7-3. The highlight of the match was Dave Butterworth's win over Gordon Birch, thus gaining some sort of consolation for his loss in the final of the "Closed" a week earlier. So for the fifth successive

season the YMCA have won the League. A fine record, but they've still got some way to go to equal the nine successive seasons of Balfour's reign. Whether they can do it or not remains to be seen. Congratulations to the team for adding their names once again on the Championship Cup.

At the bottom, the last-minute rush by Cadwa nearly upset matters altogether. Having been securely settled at the foot of the table for the best part of the season they seemed suddenly to make up their minds that they weren't going down and they started smiting the ungodly hip and thigh. And, by golly, they nearly got away with it. Had they started this revival a couple of weeks earlier, they could well have done so, for by the time they had played their last match they were a mere eight points behind Bohemians 'A', who escape relegation for this year. A tremendous show by the Cadwa team, which gave a bit of spice to the relegation zone towards the end.

So University, Cadwa, Colonsay and Linacre are the unfortunate four due to go down. We all commiserate with them, and we can only hope that they have all enjoyed their stay in the top division. From the look of the two divisions immediately lower, there do not seem any other teams liable to prevent a swift return, but with the rapid change-over of players into new clubs these days, any team could walk away with either division next season.

There is little to add, apart from reminding the clubs to attend the A.G.M. and to hope that our players will be carrying on practising during the summer. There are many rumours about who goes where for next year, but these are hardy annuals, so we'll believe them when we see them. Tarra well!

DIVISION 2A By **EDDIE CAMERON**

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Eng. Electric	26	28	0	0	226
Waterloo Park	26	19	2	5	175
Crawfords 'A'	26	15	7	4	151
Colonsay 'A'	26	16	8	2	143
Linnets 'C'	26	13	9	4	132
Rafters 'A'	26	11	11	4	129
University 'A'	26	13	8	5	126
L'pool Jewish	26	10	14	2	124
Wav. Lab. 'B'	26	6	12	8	120
Bohs. 'B'	26	9	14	3	115
Lussac	26	3	14	9	105
L.P.A.S 'A'	26	4	17	5	97
Sefton General	26	6	20	0	91
Sparta 'A'	26	4	19	3	86

Well it is all over for another season with congratulations and good luck to English Electric and Waterloo Park. I do not think English Electric have been in the first division before but Waterloo Park have tasted the delights and now go back for more. Commiserations to Sefton and Sparta 'A', the former after many seasons in Division 2, the latter on the other hand just using us as a transition stage in a two season drop from Division 1. The Sparta players apparently are pretty well ashamed of it all and you will notice they have changed their name to Sparta in readiness apparently for a fresh start next term. Looking back to my initial forecasts I picked the promotion candidates and booted in the relegation issue.

To my mind the fascinating thing this season has been the intense competition between all teams with the exception of the top two; it has been a fact that no other matches have been played where the result

could be successfully forecast in advance, factors have influenced the result, such as reserves being played, etc., but given full teams the margins between have been so small that were the season replayed we could easily find the relegation pair from the top half of the league. Sefton are surely the strongest team ever to go down, their points total of 91 would have easily steered them clear in Div. 2b. A notable achievement is that of Wavertree Labour, the only team in the league to take more than two sets from English Electric and what's more they did it home and away 7-3 each time. Talking of Wavertree Labour we were all sorry to hear of Ken Jones' unfortunate accident and wish him a speedy recovery ready for next season's battles.

Bohs. 'B' are a team who have had their troubles this season with their main stay John Dalton leaving the district but there is no doubt that Bohs. have a lot of young talent moving along in the Gordon Birch mould. Davis, their junior representative player now recovered from a cartilage operation is now available again and with Saxby and Jungbluth make up a trio of youngsters who are all keen eyed and eager for next season. By the way do not let the Paul Macartney moustaches, etc., fool you, these boys do play table tennis and not guitars.

Finally, thanks to all of you for an excellent season particularly those who let me win, and don't forget if you wish to get a mention in the notes next year be careful how you treat my team—and me in particular.

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DIVISION 2B

--By JOHN O'SULLIVAN

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Mossley Hill	24	23	0	1	205
Linnets 'A'	24	21	2	1	196
L.P.A.S.	24	14	7	3	147
Crawfords	24	14	7	3	134
L'pool YM 'B'	24	11	9	4	125
Trinity	24	13	8	3	125
Sparta	24	10	12	2	120
Linnets 'B'	24	9	9	6	119
Beauclair 'A'	24	9	12	3	112
St. Edward's	24	5	15	4	104
Palmerston	24	5	4	5	83
L'pool Jewish A	24	3	18	3	72
Wav. Lab. 'C'	24	0	24	0	18

That outside chance of Linnets 'A' being knocked off the top of the table has happened. When I wrote the notes for the last issue of the *Digest* I must admit that I thought they were virtually home and dry, but in the match with Mossley Hill, on which the whole championship rested, Linnets collapsed to a 9-1 defeat! It proved to be a dull match to those spectators who turned up to watch and what should have been an interesting battle was little more than a procession. With the exception of Peter Wass, Linnets appeared **most uninspired**, and showed very little fight or will to win. Peter did put on a very good display in his two sets, especially against John Millward, who found it far from an easy task to beat him; and although Keith Fitzsimmons won their only point with a win over Bod Hudson,

this did little to restore their morale. So, with Ian Burrows shouting advice to his club-mates which went unheeded, but gave much entertainment Linnets 'A' sank into second place after the entire season at the top.

Nothing startling has happened in the rest of the table since I wrote last. LPAS made their expected late run and came in third, some 50 pts. short of the Linnets total, so there was no doubt about the promotion pair. I did think that Crawfords might have held off the Police challenge, but they had some tough games towards the end, one of which was against the Police, in which Crawfords went down 4-6. Palmerston had enough points to ensure another season in the second division, as have Jewish 'A' but both will have to do a bit better next year if they are to survive, as I hope they do. Palmerston may be able to turn out their strongest side more regularly next season.

There is a definite lack of news this time, due mainly to the shortage of matches, and partly to the fact that since I seldom see anyone now, there is nothing to be learned from the players. However, before I sign off for the season I must offer my congratulations to John Kenwright who has gone all season without losing in either Cup or League. To play more than 50 sets against good opposition and to retain your 100% is a record of which one might justly feel proud.

I hope that you all enjoy your summer, and come back like giants refreshed next season.

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DIVISION 3A By JACK LAMBERT

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Stanley House	26	22	2	2	200
Engl. Elec. 'B'	26	22	3	1	184
Crawfords 'B'	26	19	2	5	183
Bath St. 'A'	26	18	6	2	166
Beauclair 'B'	26	14	8	4	163
L'pool YM 'C'	26	12	10	4	147
Wat. Pk. 'A'	26	11	9	6	133
Vagabonds	26	10	12	4	123
Colonsay 'C'	26	8	14	4	112
St. Mary's Coll.	26	5	14	7	105
L'pool Jew. 'B'	26	7	14	5	99
L.Y.C.A.	26	5	19	2	91
Sparta 'B'	26	1	20	5	64
Waterloo	26	1	22	3	50

Congratulations to Stanley House, our divisional champions, who were also runners-up in the Hyde Cup, losing 4-6, after having been 5-1 down. The match was a credit to both teams, and a particular 'well done' to Alun Lyn, who has more than played his part as Captain, and by winning the most sets for his team. He was closely followed by Harding, Browne and Foster who only missed a couple of games between them, and Ali, who proved his value in the late crunching finale.

After being third favourites all season, English Electric slipped into second place with a one-point lead over Crawfords, by means of seven victories in a row, and a 39-1 average in their last four matches. Every credit must go to George Moon who never missed a game, Ted Jane and Jack Longstaffe. I wonder where they would have been without their interval Phylosan? Is this a case for the Committee?

Crawfords, after an excellent season failed in the final run-in, which was hard luck on Benson and Evans who had both played so hard and so consistently. Mabel Francis was

their top scorer, and wound up a fine year by winning the Restricted Singles at the "Closed" for which hearty congratulations.

The following were the top set scorers for their teams: Vagabonds, Ridgway; L'pool YMCA, Donnelly and Cullen; Waterloo, Orford; Waterloo Park, Rohrer; L'pool Jewish, Lomas; Beauclair, M. Collins, Stock and Alcock; Pirates, Burge; Bath Street, Dumbell; St. Mary's, Delamere; Colonsay, Phillips; LYCA, Carter; and the boon of every Secretary, the boys who are always available, in the same team order: Ridgway, Martin and Lowey; Corkery, McGuirk and Goodwin; Rohrer and Scroggie; W. Davies and Lomas; Collins and Kelly; Dampeny and Davies (L); Marsh and Dumbell; Delamere and Robertshaw; Harcombe and R. Hughes. These have played in the highest number of matches for their respective sides. Bath Street called upon 15 players, and St. Mary's and Waterloo Park only 7 apiece.

These statistics are give or take a card or two. Pirates DID win one, but Len Davies didn't (see note on English Electric). Lomas and Burman of Jewish keep improving and Jean Mackenzie and Pam Fidler of Colonsay are two very welcome new bright starlets on the scene, for whom a bright future in the game seems assured.

Liverpool YMCA found their last two games to be key ones for the rivals for runners-up, losing 1-9 to English Electric, and gaining an excellent draw (5-5) with Crawfords; and Bath Street had to thank two 'B' team boys for four of their five sets in a draw v. Crawfords.

I feel it has been a good season in our division, and I hope you do also, because the enjoyment of same is entirely of our own making.

DIVISION 3B

—By ALLAN CRAWSHAW

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Eng. Elec. 'A'	24	21	1	2	186
Colonsay 'B'	24	19	4	1	165
Bath 'B'	24	14	7	3	145
Trinity 'A'	24	17	5	2	143
Eng. Elec. 'C'	24	12	6	6	134
University 'B'	24	14	7	3	130
Coll. of Tech.	24	10	9	5	124
Linnets 'D'	24	8	12	4	109
Crawfords 'C'	24	6	16	2	103
LPAS 'B'	24	7	15	2	94
Orrell	24	3	16	5	86
Bohs. 'C'	24	3	19	2	74
Wyde	24	2	19	3	67

English Electric 'A' have worthily won the championship of the division by a margin of 21 points—demonstrating a superiority which cannot justly be challenged.

In second place Colonsay 'B' have a similar margin over the third team, Bath St. 'B', so nobody can truthfully say that the two teams for promotion have not earned their step up, and we all congratulate them and hope that they will do as well next season in the higher sphere.

At the bottom end, only one team is due for relegation, Wyde Youth Club. This I find astonishing in view of their tremendous success with the same players in Division 4 last year, and the measure of success which they were experiencing during the early part of the present season. Towards the end of the first half,

they suddenly seemed to lose all interest in winning, and little by little they dropped from a healthy mid-table position to their present lowly state. There seems no doubt that they will be back again next year, and we certainly hope so, for they can be a force in this division. At the same time Bohemians 'C' can feel pleased at the lapse by Wyde, which lets them off the hook, and so avoids them the drop for this season.

Orrell, who keep the same players season by season, might find themselves obliged to field their strongest side every week in future, to keep away from the 4th division, for they drop out in turn to give other members a share of League matches. While this in itself is admirable, it might prove to be a suicidal policy in coming seasons.

For the rest, there seems so little difference between the relative merits of the majority, that any team could well figure in the promotion list next time, with a bit of luck, and equally, with a shade less good fortune, may well be in the "hot-spot." Which is a healthy sign.

Taken all round, however, it has been a good season in this division. The majority of the matches have been enjoyed by all taking part, and since one of the primary aims is to enjoy oneself, this makes for a good year. So, good luck to those going up, hard lines to Wyde on going down, and for the rest . . . see you next year!

DIVISION 4A —By JOHN McKIM

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Knotty Ash	24	24	0	0	206
Beauclair 'C'	24	22	2	0	192
Maghull	24	18	4	2	162
Panto	24	15	8	1	154
University 'C'	24	12	9	3	136
Eng. Elec. 'D'	24	14	7	3	129
Palmerston 'A'	24	10	9	5	127
Colonsay 'D'	24	10	11	3	120
Coll. Tech. 'A'	24	4	17	3	92
Knotty Ash 'B'	24	5	16	3	69
St. Patrick's	24	4	18	2	64
Rafters 'B'	24	2	20	2	63
Linnets 'F'	21	2	21	1	45

Division champions are, as was expected for some weeks, Knotty Ash. Their final lead over Beauclair 'C' larger than at one time could have been anticipated, and in fact for a long spell in the first half of the season, Beauclair were at the top of the table, but the strengthening of the Knotty Ash team by the inclusion of Ron McCracken at No. 5, and some slack play by Beauclair left Knotty Ash with a substantial advantage. A glance at the averages will show that Knotty Ash won the division on team performance, and not as so often happens in the lower divisions, by the brilliance of one or two individuals. Beauclair 'C' also have four of their players among the

leading averages, and these tend to show that both sides will do well in the third division.

The most interesting match in recent weeks was undoubtedly that between Maghull and Panto, 3rd and 4th in the table, which finished in a 6-4 win for Maghull. Seven of the sets went to three, and the following scores will indicate the closeness of the competition between them:—Draper (Maghull) v. Cornthwaite (Panto) in a battle of No. 1's went to Cornthwaite 16-21, 23-21, 21-19, and Cornthwaite completed his double with another three-game win over Hay. Adams at No. 3 for Maghull just managed to pip Dyson 21-23, 21-15, 23-21, and in another close one, McCoy for Panto beat Clarke 21-14, 23-25, 21-19. This must have been a match for strong nerves for all concerned.

Among the notable performances

of recent weeks, two players deserve a mention for winning the only game for their sides in 10-0 losses, all other sets being lost in two-straight. R. Fletcher (St. Patrick's) and M. Jones (Raffers 'B') each did this v. Knotty Ash, the champions, and to return the compliment, P. Dunning of Knotty Ash 'B' won the single set for his team against Panto in a 1-9 defeat. It is obvious from the cards that quite a number of matches played recently have been keenly contested, which is a good sign at the end of a hard season, and where the teams are not concerned either with promotion or relegation.

It only remains for me to wish those who are leaving us for more exalted circles the very best of luck in the third division, and to those who are staying behind . . . see you next season!

DIVISION 4B —By JIMMY BYRNE

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Hilltop	22	18	3	1	160
Cadwa 'A'	22	15	2	5	151
St. Elizabeth's	22	15	5	2	148
C. F. Mott	22	14	4	4	141
Bohs. 'D'	22	14	4	4	140
Mossley Hill 'A'	22	10	8	4	118
St. Edwards 'A'	22	10	10	2	116
Stanley Hse 'A'	22	6	16	0	88
Knotty Ash 'A'	22	5	15	2	86
Linnets 'E'	22	3	16	3	74
Eng. Elec. 'E'	22	3	18	1	55
Bath St. 'C'	22	1	17	4	42

The last notes of what has been a most interesting season finds the teams finishing in the order which, in the main, took shape about last January. The biggest difference being that of Cadwa 'A' who just pipped St. Elizabeth's for second place. On reflection I think that Cadwa just about deserved this spot, for having been the more consistent of the two throughout, and the two matches between them finishing 5-5 and 7-3 in favour of the Childwall side. But, first let us congratulate Hilltop, division champions in their first season. Aply led by Bob Chew, who was well supported all season by Lock, McGarragh, Williams and

Pratt, and reserves Graves and Sharp.

C. F. Mott and Bohemians 'D' in 4th and 5th places finished well ahead of Mossley Hill 'A' and St. Edward's 'A', to complete the top half, which proved too good for the remaining teams. The bottom of the table battle between English Electric 'E' and Bath St. 'C' resolved itself in favour of the former, these two, together with Linnets 'E' being without any fear of relegation, being in the lucky position of being able to "blood" any new players they might choose, with, we hope, hopes for improvement as time goes by.

Looking back over the season certain names spring to mind quite obviously for their playing ability, chief amongst these being Ken Jones (Bohs.) and Bob Chew (Hilltop) with Westhead (Cadwa), Coughlin (Mossley Hill) and Nolan (St. Edward's) none too far behind, but if I were obliged to select one name for particular mention, I think it would be that of G. Edmunds of St. Elizabeth's. He has lost to the best, and has in turn beaten those whom he has played twice, and, in addition has turned out in every single match from start to finish, at No. 1. There are several who have deserved mention also, but with limited space, it would be unfair to include some to the exclusion of others equally deserving, so I'll content myself with saying that

there are few whose performances and/or appearances do not justify some praise.

I would like to end these final notes of the season by offering sincere congratulations to Mossley Hill 'A' on having won the Forrest Cup, thus bringing it to 4B, and emulating the success of their senior side in the Rumjahn Cup. Having beaten Knotty Ash (Div. 4A champions) in

the final I wonder why Mossley Hill are not higher in this division. Can it be that we have a stronger division than 4A?

However, nothing now remains for me to do but to thank everyone for a good season . . . to say 'au revoir' to those going to Division 3, and 'see you next year' to those remaining in this division.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

--By JUDY CRAFTER

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Crawfords	24	21	1	2	203
Rafters	24	20	0	4	191
Cadwa	24	17	3	4	177
Palmerston	24	14	5	5	163
Sandown	24	14	6	4	143
Rafters	24	11	8	5	129
Orrell	24	10	10	4	114
Bath St.	24	10	11	3	108
Bibbys	24	6	15	3	92
Colonsay	24	5	19	0	81
Linnets	24	4	20	0	65
Bohemians	24	4	16	4	63
Linnets 'A'	24	0	22	2	31

Well, another season is at an end, which is a relief to me in one way, for this will be the last article I have to write.

Crawfords have won the championship from Rafters, and it was a decisive win, by a margin of 12 pts. Rafters were well clear of Cadwa in third place and with Palmerston coming fourth, as expected, the big four of the division sorted themselves out, if not to everyone's satisfaction, at least without any doubt remaining about the relative positions. Palmerston, by winning the Bartholomew Cup, demonstrated what they might have done in the League had they always had their strongest side available, and much the same applied to Cadwa, whose team varied considerably from time to time. However these things are always with us and it would be a lucky team who never had to include a reserve. Congratulations go to Crawfords, then, and to Palmerston for winning the Cup.

Another team which deserves some praise is Sandown. Four of their six players have been playing together in the same club for many years now, first with Osterley, then Linnets, then breaking away to form their

own team, and Milly Harris, Lily Wynne, Monica O'Donnell and Cath. Churchill earn a mention from that angle alone. Together with Auy Bell and Joyce Barton they form the entire club strength, each playing in turn to give all a fair share of match play, and to come in 5th place, a mere 20 points behind the Palmerston club, which shows what they might have done if at full strength throughout. They invariably give good opposition and are one of the assets of the division.

Rafters 'A', Orrell, Bibby's and Bath Street are comfortable, middle of the table teams capable always of taking the odd set or two from the stronger sides, to add up at the final reckoning. One gets the feeling that if some of these girls got regular practice they would be far more successful, but the calls of other duties takes its toll inevitably.

Of Colonsay, with the wealth of young enthusiastic girls, I've written on several occasions, and much more will be written about them, both individually and collectively in the seasons to come. Incidentally, a final word about this team . . . They have won their way through to the final eight in the National Schools competition to be played very soon. When they go (as Holly Lodge, of course) they will take the best wishes of the entire Division, if not the League with them, as will their chief coach, guide, philosopher and friend, Les French. May you win it at the first time of asking!

Linnets suffered by the loss of three of last year's team, one to Crawfords and two to Palmerston, and Carol Flood had the brunt to bear at No. 1. However, they are all enthusiastic, and are all young enough to improve a great deal and we shall do well to look out for these girls next year, as with Linnets 'A'.

Bohemians have done better again this season, with the help of Doris D'Arcy, but they get little or no chance to play during the summer, which holds them back considerably.

I would like to take an opportunity of expressing the thanks of everyone to the ladies in the Canteen at the 'Closed' who did a great job under

conditions which were far from good. The players appreciated their efforts, although they seldom say so.

Well, I'll see you all again next year, I hope, and don't forget, any friends who are interested, make them join your club--the more the merrier. We might even get a second division again yet!
