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**TABLE
TENNIS
DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE **DIGEST** TENNIS

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— Editorial Board —

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Vol. 18

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No. 1.

Editorial

Once again we are starting the season with a new Editor. This has become necessary as Jim Green has been compelled to give up his work on the "Digest" due to his health. As we all know, Jim has been in bad health for some time and on his doctor's orders must take things easier. He is still writing the Division I notes and I am sure, too, that we will still be able to rely on him for a few articles.

I have been elected to try, and I mean try, to fill Jim's place and produce for you a full magazine—some hope. Many of you do not know me and by the time you read your final issue—if we get that far—you will know that you have not missed much by that. I am afraid I know nothing about producing a magazine, even less about writing editorials, but with the help of the Editorial Board I will try and get out a magazine, even if it contains only 16 blank pages, plus that well-known advert!

Over now to welcome our new clubs—Palatine, Essemay, Odyssey and Liverpool Paraplegics. I hope that they all enjoy many happy and successful seasons with us. At the other end of the scale we have lost Wyde Y.C. (not a very long reign this) and Waterloo and one of our oldest clubs—Bohemians. However, they have re-entered as 'Sandforth' and I have no doubt they will change back next season to their original title. The Women's Division have also suffered by this withdrawal of clubs and lost three—Orrell, Bohemians and Sandown. This is a matter of concern to us all, as they are now down to only seven clubs. Bootle Y.M. who had to withdraw last season have re-entered and we hope that this time they will enjoy a full season. We cannot complain however as the number of teams has increased, necessitating the formation of a new division and the overall number of clubs is as good as last season.

I have been asked if we intend making any changes in the magazine and whilst it is a bit on the stodgy side, it fulfils very well its primary function, which is, to report on past and forthcoming events in the League. This naturally restricts its scope, but it can be and is intended to be, a platform for your views and ideas. So if you want a more lively magazine let's have some lively articles and letters from you. The more controversial the better, as this is the best way of livening things up.

We welcome on to the Editorial Board Mabel Francis, who will act as Asst. Editor and Ray Hebson who will fill the other vacancy.

Finally, a few words of appreciation to Jim, for we cannot allow his retirement to pass without placing on record our appreciation of his many years of work, in various capacities, for the "Digest." Jim, as he is first to admit, has his critics—who hasn't?—but he carried out many thankless tasks extremely well and never shirked from any extra work. No doubt the Management Committee who are well aware of this, will soon get round to discussing some concrete way of showing their appreciation for this work.

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

First of all may I welcome our new Editor and wish him every success in a task, which Ken will no doubt have already realised is no sinecure.

Since our last issue we have had our own A.G.M. and also the Annual General Meeting of the National Association. Our own meeting was a relatively quiet affair with very few rule changes, but the National Meeting passed a rule amendment which increases our fees to the E.T.T.A. next season by 25%. This change prompted me to look at our financial set-up and the following facts obtained from last year's balance sheet will give you some idea of how your money will be spent next year when the increased fees to the E.T.T.A. come into operation.

At present clubs pay 22/6 for their first team and 17/6 for each additional team, of this we will pay to the E.T.T.A. 15/- for each team and a further 2/1d. for each team will go to the County Association. This leaves us with 5/5d. from each first team and the princely sum of 5d. from each additional team, of which there are about 70.

Our other main source of income is the 10/- Registration fee and this is accounted for as follows:

Handbook	....	....	....	1s.	9d.
" Digest "	....	....	....	3s.	10d. (<i>including postage</i>)
Trophies	....	....	....	1s.	3d.
City Teams	....	....	....	1s.	9d.
Administration	....	....	....		5d.
				<hr/>	
				10s.	0d.

As you can see from the above figures very little of the fees paid by clubs and players are spent on running costs. The majority of the money goes in affiliation fees or is passed back to you in the form of Handbooks, " Digest " and Medals, etc. Our only other source of income is from fines and profits, if any, from the Merseyside Open and Liverpool Closed Tournaments.

An article in the last issue of the " Digest " which mentioned the Oldham League has caused a certain amount of discussion. To avoid any misunderstanding I wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this article were those of the writer of the article and did not therefore necessarily reflect the opinions of the Liverpool League Committee.

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IT SHOULD BE AN INTERESTING SEASON

The acquisition of Barbara Cain (Palmerston) has added to the established strength of Judy Crafter (Cadwa) and Mabel Francis (Crawfords) to give a Ladies 1st Team which is capable of winning the League for the first time for 27 years! With Elizabeth Loughrey as Captain they opened with a 10-0 win over Wirral, and although their other matches will all be tougher, this side is quite capable of winning the honours, but whether or not they will do so rests with themselves. We're keeping our fingers crossed.

The selection of three junior girls to form the 'A' Team aroused quite a load of criticism in certain quarters, but Pam Fidler, Jean Mackenzie (both Colonsay) and Janet Rumjahn (Rafters) must have confounded their critics by their 8-2 win over Bury. This is the first chance there has been to extend our "Youth Policy" into the distaff side of the game, and thanks to the "assembly line" of Les French at Holly Lodge and Colonsay, and the organised coaching now taking place in other girls schools in the area, we look forward to a fairly constant intake of youngsters in the years to come. Incidentally it should be remembered that this is the first time our 'A' Team has beaten Bury for some years, so may be the selectors are not quite as moronic as was feared after all.

GOOD START FOR THE MEN ALSO

The emigration of Roy Jones, left a gap in the Men's 1st Team well-nigh impossible to fill immediately but with Gordon Birch and Peter D'Arcy (both English Electric) both available we had a nucleus of a sound team. After much deliberation it was decided to include Frank Thomas (Linnets) for the first few games. They opened with a 7-3 win at Urnston, which might have been by an even wider margin had not Frank mislaid his bat and been forced to play with a new one.

Frank has now suffered a serious injury to his racquet arm and is undergoing hospital treatment so his place will be taken by George Smith (YMCA) in the match v. Manchester on November 9th. George is in great form at present and recently joined the (very short) list of players whose record includes a win over Gordon Birch, so his inclusion seems to be one of common-sense.

The Men's 'A' Team of last year, i.e., Roy Smith (Wav. Lab.), Ian Burrows (Linnets) and Rod McPherson (Eng. Elec.) was again picked en bloc for the games on successive evenings v. Warrington (away) and Manchester 'A' at home. Against Warrington Burrows had to withdraw because of night school, and since it was too late to find a substitute Tony Green (Linnets) turned out. The result was a 8-2 win, thanks to 3 from Roy Smith, 2 from Rod McPherson and 2 from Tony Green (whose third set was lost at 20-22 in the third), Smith and McPherson winning the doubles.

The following night at English Electric saw the original side swamped against Manchester 'A', only Smith winning one singles and together with McPherson the doubles. Both Burrows and McPherson seemed unable to cope with the hard hitting Manchester team.

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YOUTH TEAM FALTER

Only Alan Dean (Linnets) being left to us of last season's Youth side, Richard Heath (Linnets) and Ian Wensley (Colonsay) made up the team for the first game v. Wirral, who won narrowly 6-4, mainly due to a poor display by Alan Dean, who had to work hard to win one. Dick Heath added two and together with Dean, the doubles. A nervous Wensley won none, but he will undoubtedly hit better form later on.

Junior Trials have been held, and a team composed of Harry Jones (Eng. Elec.), Allan Williams (Colonsay) and Alan Metcalf (Wav. Lab.) selected to go into battle in the Junior Div. 2. As yet they have had no match, but doubtless they will be "having a go" very shortly. For some reason known only to themselves, a Junior 2nd Division has been formed by the Committee, in which Liverpool finds itself! We've got a very good chance of earning promotion here.

For those who wish to see our teams in action, the "Home" venues of the various teams are as follows:

Men's 1st Team	....	....	....	Liverpool YMCA
Men's 'A' Team	....	....	....	English Electric T.T.C.
Ladies' 1st Team	....	....	....	Crawfords T.T.C.
				(Capt. Mrs. Loughrey)
Ladies' 'A' Team	....	....	....	Bootle and L'pool Police
				(Capt. T. A. Heague)
Youth Team	....	....	....	Wavertree Labour
				(Capt. B. A. Leeson)
Junior Team	....	....	....	Colonsay (Capt. L. A. French)

THE "OPEN" FINANCIALLY

By THE TREASURER

A FINANCIAL SUCCESS

Unless my arithmetic is sorely at fault we have emerged, financially at least, very successfully from this tournament. Although our fees were £2 less than last year and takings at the door were also slightly less and we did not run a draw, we more than offset these losses by increased savings. We saved mainly on printing and prizes, but in the case of the latter this did not mean that we bought inferior prizes, but through the generosity of "Monty" we were able to save quite a bit.

Some of the figures are estimated but I think it gives a fair view of the competition financially and for further information last year's figures are shown in brackets.

	£	£		£	£
Entry Fees	(74)	72	E.T.T.A. Fees	(10)	10
E.T.T.A. Fees	(10)	10	Master Points	(3)	3
Door	(10)	8	Balls	(4)	5
Draws	(3)	—	Prizes	(29)	21
Catering	(3)	3	Printing	(19)	15
			Insurance	(1)	1
			Players Expenses	(9)	3
			Gratuities	(9)	3
			Refreshments	(7)	7
			Secretarial	(5)	2
			Profit	(5)	23
	£100	93		£100	93

Finally, our thanks are due again to Dunlops Sports for allowing us the use of their premises without which we would be involved in a considerable loss.

Kevin Forshaw of Manchester became the new Merseyside Open Champion on Saturday, 28th October, after a well deserved three set victory over the top seed Alan Hydes. Forshaw had earlier beaten the third seed, Roger Chandler, in two straight in the semi-final and gained an even easier victory over Glen Warwick, in the quarters. Hydes, on the other hand, was always struggling in his semi, against Peter Duncombe, in which he was taken to three, but he had a comparatively easy win over J. K. Clarke in his quarter final.

Duncombe had accounted for the 4th seed, Mike Johns, in the second round, while Ralph Gunnion, the second seed, was surprisingly knocked out in straight games by Glen Warwick in Round three.

The Women's Final also brought a surprise, in that Judy Heaps, still a junior but seeded number two, beat the top seed and holder, Maureen Heppell, in three very closely fought games. Miss Heaps had overcome Diane Simpson in the semi, and Les Barrie of Scotland before that, while Miss Heppell had found Cynthia Duncombe a problem in her semi.

The Men's Doubles title went, as expected, to the top seeds, Ralph Gunnion and Roger Chandler. They took the title with a fine two straight win over Paul Judd and Roy Morley, while the Women's Doubles was taken by Cynthia Duncombe and Lesley Proudlock, who beat Maureen Heppell and Diane Simpson, also in straight sets.

The Mixed Doubles title went to Peter Duncombe and Lesley Proudlock, and the Veteran's event was won by Bill Ramsdale.

The Junior Boys' Trophy went to Brian Mitchell of Bolton, who had a comfortable win over Anthony Boasman, of Manchester; while Judy Heaps sailed through the Girls' event, beating three Liverpool girls on the way including Jean Mackenzie in the semi and Pam Fidler in the Final.

It was necessary to have Friday play again this year and although the local entries were not as numerous as we would really like, just under 50 events were completed between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

The Tournament itself went off very well and we succeeded in starting the Finals in good time. This ensured

that the tournament ended at a reasonable time, thus enabling players and spectators to get home more easily.

As usual the bulk of the work fell on members of the Management Committee, plus the usual small band of regular helpers. We also received the assistance of some of the junior players from Colonsay, who worked extremely hard and willingly throughout Friday evening and all day Saturday. They set an example of cheerfulness and willingness, which older members of the league would do well to copy. Needless to say none of the local players showed any inclination to assist in running the tournament after they had been eliminated. I have no doubt these words of complaint will again, as in past years, fall on deaf ears but I shall go on hoping that at one of these tournaments we will actually be overrun with offers of assistance.

Jim Green was unfortunately not able to undertake any duties in the running of the tournament as his health had on this occasion kept him away. I am sure that his presence at the Referees' table was missed by others apart from myself and that all connected with the Tournament organisation will wish Jim a speedy recovery.

I would like to thank Dunlops Sports Ltd. and members of their staff for the assistance which they gave us and without which there would be no Merseyside Open.

Finally, may I record my sincere thanks to all those who helped make the tournament a success. I hope they will all realise that their efforts were very much appreciated.

25 YEAR " FIXTURE "

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our very best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Fixture Secretary, otherwise known as Mr. and Mrs. E. Cameron on celebrating their Silver Wedding. Eddie has, of course, celebrated his Silver Wedding to Table Tennis several years ago and we all hope that he can achieve his Golden Anniversary and still be serving Table Tennis.

Welcome to yet another season in which I see we can once again look forward to with our top players giving their usual interpretation of what they consider is a sportsman-like attitude when beaten. We can only hope that the younger players do not copy them. Why also must players use such language? In any other sport they would be in trouble immediately. Much more of it and the *Daily Express* is likely to start a 'Clean-up Table Tennis' campaign.

Nice to see the new service rule printed in the handbooks—sports outfitters report a rush for 'GANDS'.

Remember the report in the last issue last season of Linnet's intention to build a new clubhouse during the close season! Visitors so far report a remarkable likeness to the old one.

One thing that strikes me as absurd in the rules, that which forbids the wearing of track suits. Now if anyone can tell me the difference between wearing a track suit and wearing long trousers and a sweater, I will nominate them for the C.D.M.

Whatever happened to those fierce critics of the League's scoring system and pyramid leagues? Now that both have proved a success, especially the latter, a strange silence has fallen over certain districts.

Congratulations to Gordon Birch for defeating nationally ranked Ralph Gunnion. I wonder if he will now succeed in being seeded No. 1 in the Closed Tournament? Still on this subject I understand that Ralph

has offered 2 to 1 against Gordon ever repeating this victory. Anyone wishing to make their holiday money should contact Ralph.

Best excuse so far—a member of a visiting team came off and excused his defeat by saying, "How can you play on a table half inch higher at one end than the other." He must have given it a calculating look.

Keep letters of complaint coming in, an unconfirmed rumour states that a certain 1st Division team actually provided TEA at the interval. The visitors were so surprised they never won another game. Game, Set and Match to N. Cooke, Mrs. B. Castle and A. Breathalyser.

Has anyone a crystal ball to lend the Selection committee? At the moment they appear to be picking the Men's team out of the hat and its anybody's guess whose name will be next out!

I was greatly impressed at the Merseyside Open by the fitness and agility of some of our players. The speed with which they disappeared when it looked as if they might be asked to give assistance would win them a medal at any Olympic Games.

Finally, in these days of decreasing clubs due to losing clubrooms it is nice to see one of our newer clubs, namely St. Elizabeth's, making such a determined effort to find a new clubroom. I hope that they will be successful as we cannot afford to lose clubs like them.

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WHAT WILL THE 1967-68 SEASON BRING ?

By PHILIP REID

The 1967-68 season is, of course, well under way now and perhaps the most important thing of all will be the new European League which makes its bow this season. England, who have pushed ceaselessly for the formation of this league, are in the Premier Division and have attractive home matches with Hungary, Russia, Czechoslovakia and West Germany. The first named match will be in Lancashire at Manchester YMCA on December 1st.

Although the Hungarian team is not yet known—or for that matter the English one—it is pretty obvious their side will be an attractive one. Peter Roszas, the left handed hitter is likely to be in the side. Peter who is also a ballet dancer has a splendid temperament, a fine all round game and as one can expect, brilliant footwork. It is likely too that Borzei will be in the side. This is the player who took Brighton by storm last year and had some really tremendous wins, including one over Dennis Neale. Borzei has rubber on one side of the bat and sandwich rubber on the other. The result is some quite

exceptional defensive play with the occasional really telling kill-shot. Eva Koczian is likely to be the lady player in the team. For years she has been Hungary's outstanding lady and those who saw her at Brighton last season will vouch for the strength of her defence. A fine sportswoman she is sure to be popular with the crowd. All in all it should be a splendid match.

Nice to see Judy Crafter on the Tournament circuit again. What with Scarborough at the end of last season and Skegness at the beginning of this, didn't know the East Coast air was THAT bracing, Judy!

Good also to see Liverpool represented on the National Council by its Chairman, Arthur Upton. So far we haven't heard Arthur say too much at meetings, but what he has said has been short, straight to the point and appropriate. No doubt we shall be hearing more from him as time goes by.

That's it for now. Keep playing, keep winning and watch the new service rule.

Letters to the Editor

11a Dorsett Drive,
Liverpool 23.

Dear Sir,

Is it really true that Jimmy Green is no longer on the Editorial Board of the "Digest"?

I have crossed swords with him a few times in the pages of his magazine and hated him for the marvellous way he has marshalled his words and in a few sweeping sentences cut my arguments to ribbons. He is an absolute wizard at picking his words expertly and presenting his opinions with great force and plausibility. Although I disagree with a lot of what he writes and although I have many times considered him to be an old so and so, I just can't help admiring him.

Just think of the immense amount of time, skill and effort he has poured into table tennis in Liverpool! We have many devoted enthusiasts in

the city but is there anyone to beat Jimmy Green? With his efforts he has given a great deal of pleasure to hundreds of players on Merseyside. I do hope he will remain active in the game and occasionally regale us with flashes of his unique penmanship.

Yours sincerely,
T. GORDON.

45d Sir Thomas White Gardens,
Liverpool 5.

Dear Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity through the "Digest" to express my farewells to you all. I have spent 27 years in the league and this makes it harder for me as I valued friendships made in the league very deeply.

Table Tennis has been part of my social life for many years on Merseyside but the way you have all ex-

pressed your most generous farewells in thoughts, and the presentation made to me, has helped deaden the parting. So in going to New Zealand to live I will carry with me, in thought, the years of happy social life you have all helped to give me.

Look after yourselves, and good Table Tennis in the future to all.

Yours sincerely,

ROY JONES
(ex-Liverpool Y.M.).

93 Avondale Road,
Liverpool 15.

Dear Sir,

Some people may have noticed that there are quite a few good youngsters around the league these

days. Most of these come from Boys' Clubs and any League clubs which help encourage these boys will reap the benefits in years to come.

The L.B.A. Tournament takes place in January and the organisation would appreciate any help from experienced players. Anybody interested should get in touch with Mr. B. Elston Smith, Liverpool Boys' Association, 88 Sheil Rd., L'pool 6.

If you see any players you would like to sign for your club, no obstacles will be placed in your way and you will also be helping in preventing these players being lost to Table Tennis when they leave the Boys' Association.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN MOLYNEUX
(Wav. Lab.).

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Around the Divisions

DIVISION 1.

By JIM GREEN

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
English Electric	5	3	0	2	34
Liverpool YMCA	4	2	0	2	29
Wav. Labour	4	3	1	0	28
L'pool YMCA 'A'	4	3	0	1	27
Rafters	5	3	2	0	26
Bath Street	4	2	0	2	22
Mossley Hill	4	1	1	2	21
Wav. Lab. 'A'	4	2	2	0	20
Linnets	4	1	3	0	18
Waterloo Park	5	0	5	0	11
Beauchair	3	0	3	0	8
Linnets 'A'	4	0	3	1	6

Some Surprising Results.

Monday, 25th September will long be remembered by Gordon Birch, for it was on that night that he realised another of his ambitions by beating the ranked England player Ralph Gunnion. Admittedly Ralph was not at his best, but Gordon played brilliantly, seized every opportunity and well earned the best win of his career.

In the same game Peter D'Arcy suffered one of his very rare double defeats, going down to Gunnion and Ian Burrows, and for Linnets, Keith Fitzsimmons added a third by a straight games win over Fred Pheysey. Frank Thomas was stranded in Blackburn by the rail strike, otherwise English Electric might have had even more of a struggle.

The following week newly-promoted Mossley Hill held the champions Liverpool Y.M. to a draw, thanks to a double by Bob Hudson, plus one each from their three Widnes players, Kenwright, Millward and Youd. For the Y.M. George Smith (2), Ted Mandaluff (1), Val Franco (1) and Harry Johnston (1) did the damage. Bob Hudson can feel well pleased with his results in his first game in this division for five years.

In this week, also, Bath St. held English Electric to a 5-All but this

result was highly influenced, firstly by the enforced absence of Peter D'Arcy, who was working in Glasgow and secondly by some astute captaincy by Bath St. whose order was completely reversed with Arthur Taylor at 5 and Alec Gould thrown to the wolves at No. 1. But Alan Williams had a fine personal win over Electric's "iron man" Eddie Clein, as did Fred Pheysey (Eng. Elec.) over Bath Street's normal No. 2, John Ogston.

More Surprises follow.

This was not the end of the shocks, for English Electric then had a heavy 8-2 win over Wavertree Lab., whose hopes for the championship must be higher than ever this year. Only Roy Smith and Ted Gilmoure had any joy in this match, with wins over McPherson and Pheysey.

Mossley Hill only managed to hold Linnets 'A' to yet another draw! John Kenwright and John Millward each got two and Bob Hudson (1). For Linnets 'A' Tony Green (2), Johnson, Lavin and Dean (one each) got the points.

After which assorted bag, anyone who can draw any satisfactory conclusion from results to date for either championship or relegation is a genius. Especially in view of yet another draw among the championship contenders, with no details to hand Liverpool Y.M. and English Electric finished 5-All, with Gordon Birch losing to George Smith (still 100%) and Eddie Clein beating Ted Mandaluff in a very quick set of only 2¼ hrs!!

The withdrawal of the two Bohs. teams leaves only two sides for relegation. Several teams are currently in danger here, so to hazard any guesses at this stage is far too risky for comfort. However things should start sorting themselves out soon, so we've just got to wait and see.

DIVISION 2A. By GORDON NEVINS

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Cadwa	4	4	0	0	36
Liverpool Jewish	5	2	1	2	33
Eng. Elec. 'A'	5	4	1	0	30
Wav. Lab. 'B'	4	2	2	0	22
Lussac	4	1	1	2	22
Colonsay 'A'	5	1	3	1	22
Crawfords 'A'	3	2	0	1	21
Rafters 'A'	5	1	3	1	21
Linacre	4	3	1	0	20
Stanley House	4	2	1	1	19
University 'A'	2	1	1	0	13
Police 'A'	4	0	4	0	6
Linnets 'C'	5	0	5	0	5

A Quiet Start.

We are once again pitched into the battle of the divisional championship, but before trying to assess match results and positions in the league table, I would like to say welcome to another season to our regulars and also those new to the division this season and to all clubs the best of luck in the promotion battle and enjoyable table tennis throughout the season.

At this early stage league positions can be a little misleading but Cadwa, with three good wins to their credit, although against the lower teams, look like making a quick return to the 1st division. The team that will join them is a little harder to find as some of them have strengthened their teams since last season, but Crawfords 'A' who came third in this division last year will probably be leading the main pool of challengers.

Sadly Linnets 'C' look like glaring relegation candidates, this being due to the loss of the Holmes brothers and Co. in the close season. They will probably be accompanied by Police 'A' or University 'A', neither of which have yet recorded their first win.

Interesting match results: The close win of Linacre over Colonsay 'A' by 6 sets to 4—A. Horewood picking up two sets at the No. 4 spot.—possibly suspension for two weeks would cut this sort of thing out. Two splendid wins for my own club, Lussac, by J. 'Spud' Murphy, enabled us to lose handsomely to Stanley House 6-4. In the Crawfords 'A' v. Wav. Lab. 'B' battle Norman Chaloner for the Labour club and S. Jarvey for Crawfords both got a double, Crawfords scraping home 6-4.

Is it true that when the Police arrived at English Electric for their match, the Police captain's opening remark was, "Evening ALL"? Seriously, this proved to be another close match, the win going to English Electric by 6-4, thanks to E. Smitton and W. Neary both getting a double.

By the time the next "Digest" is published the league table should have settled down and thus give a clearer picture of how teams are progressing.

P.S. One player to watch for this season is Chester Barnes—I've heard he's quite good.

Editor's Note. This wants looking into Gordon. I can't find his registration slip anywhere!

DIVISION 2B. By JOHN O'KEEFFE

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
L'pool Y.M. 'B'	5	4	0	1	37
Colonsay	5	4	0	1	37
Police	5	4	0	1	36
Beauclair 'A'	5	4	1	0	30
Eng. Elec. 'B'	5	2	2	1	25
L'pool Jewish 'A'	5	3	2	0	24
Trinity	4	2	1	1	23
Palmerston	5	1	2	2	21
St. Edward's	5	0	4	1	19
Crawfords	4	0	2	2	17
Linnets 'B'	4	0	3	1	12
University	2	1	1	0	11
Colonsay 'B'	5	0	4	1	11
Sparta	3	0	3	0	7

Welcome to another new season and a new writer of these notes. I hope that you will bear with me whilst I get the hang of this business. This first issue is the hardest as there have been so few results to write about.

Firstly, of course, welcome to our two newcomers from the upper sphere, Colonsay and University, and the two promoted clubs, English Electric 'B' and Colonsay 'B'. In past seasons this has been considered the stronger of the two 2nd divisions, but as we have gained, in my opinion anyway, most of the weaker relegated and promoted teams, there has been a general levelling of standard which should be to everyone's advantage.

I understand that Colonsay have made some new signings resulting in changes in their teams, so it looks as if they will be out to go straight back to the 1st division. However, Police, Y.M. 'B' and Beauclair, who have all got off to a good start, will have something to say about that. University, due to their usual late start are still an unknown quantity but as they have lost R. Heath—signed for Linnets—I do not think they will be in the running when next April comes around, although they may cause a few upsets among the promotion contenders.

It is a bit too early to discuss the wooden spoonists as the majority of the other clubs are pretty evenly matched. I have a feeling that the closest finish will be more amongst those trying to avoid relegation than those striving for promotion, but we will know more about this by the next issue. One interesting point on that Sparta-Pirates split up: Sparta, who stayed with us, are at present bottom of the league without

a win, whilst Pirates, who went into 4B have not lost a match! present bottom of the league without 4B have not lost a match!

St. Edward's can no longer claim to be the veterans of 2B as Fred Lawson and Basil Townsend have been posted missing, presumed retired, and replaced by two promising youngsters from the 'A' team, Steve Thomas and Alan Nolan. The Police have their usual 'solid' line-up of Gray, Guald, Hough, Bracewell and Heague, their recent match with St. Edward's provided the usual reminiscences of table tennis in days gone by and although winning one's game was the prime object, sociability was not forgotten. This, in the writer's humble opinion, is what a Table Tennis match should be.

Judging by the score card, the match between Police and English Electric 'B' must have been quite a battle. It finished in a draw, with seven sets going to three. The game between R. Hough and G. Moon must have been worth watching. The scores were 30-28, 19-21 and 22-20

DIVISION 3A

By EDDIE CAMERON

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Bath St. 'A'	5	5	0	0	42
efton	5	4	0	1	39
Vagabonds	5	2	0	3	32
L'pool Y.M. 'C' ..	5	3	0	2	31
Maghull	5	3	1	1	29
Waterloo Park 'A'	5	2	1	2	28
L.Y.C.A.	5	2	2	1	22
Crawfords 'B' ..	5	1	3	1	21
Cadwa 'A'	4	0	0	4	20
C. F. Mott	5	1	3	1	20
Colonsay 'C'	5	2	3	0	17
L'pool Jewish 'B'	5	0	4	1	15
Beauclair 'B' ..	5	0	4	1	14
Knotty Ash	4	0	4	0	10

Division 3 is a change of territory for me, age must be telling, so I cannot very well make comparisons with last year, clubs have changed and faces have changed in the teams which were here last season. One thing I can tell you, you are very little short of the standards of Division 2 and as several of you are newly arrived from Division 4 the standards there must be much better than I thought.

I invariably predict in my first notes the promotion and relegation

candidates, so here goes. Bath St. 'A' and Sefton General will walk away with the league and finish in that order. Both have well balanced sides with a blend of experience and are strong down to number five. Bath St. 'A' have veteran John Covenay in the number two spot. John looks even more worn out than ever, his apparent lazy style is even more lazy than ever, he does not over exert himself and is content to play his basic shots and let the opposition lose. Do not be too down hearted if you fail against him. John has spent most of his table tennis life in the First Division and many a better player than you has fallen to him. Almost as old, almost as ageless, Cyril Smith plods on at number four—his game doesn't change either, quick fire returns give him quick fire results and these two so strategically placed in the team will ensure the basis of success. Talking of old timers is not intended to belittle the rest of the team. Kite, at number one, is a stylist quite capable of ensuring a good start to any match whilst Goodburn and Edwards are strong enough to collect a fair share of sets in the bottom half of the team.

Sefton General, my second tip, were relegated from Division two last season but not with this team. In fact, had this team been available all last season Sefton would have been well up in the top half of the table. Despite that I do not believe that Sefton will topple Bath St. and will need to be content with promotion and no medals. Biggs and Sayle are one and two and are both steady enough to give Sefton a head start in most matches. Davies at No. 3 can, on his day, excel and outshine his team mates, particularly if he plays regularly, as apparently he now intends. Bickerton is a useful No. 4, whilst in George Kettle they could have the outstanding No. 5 in the division.

Both these teams are off to a flying start and have already opened a gap in the league, but this season there is a bonus in store for a third

team. Examination of the league shows vacancies in Division 2 which will probably be made good by promoting a third team from each Third Division. Should this be so it is going to be intriguing in deciding on the third team, could it be Maghull, Liverpool V.M. or Waterloo Park? My guess—Liverpool Y.M., but may be the next few weeks will clarify the situation.

What about the relegation candidates? May be Knotty Ash or Liverpool Jewish 'B' but if you belong to either of those two teams take heart, whilst I am usually correct in my promotion guess, I am never right at the other end. Do your best to prove me wrong anyway, as it is a bad thing to have on one's conscience that a few words jotted down on pure guesswork could influence a team and cause loss of confidence.

DIVISION 3B

By COLIN STOCK

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Wav. Lab. 'C'	5	5	0	0	38
Bath St. 'B'	5	5	0	0	36
Orrell	5	4	1	0	34
Hilltop	5	4	0	1	32
College of Tech.	5	3	2	0	31
Trinity 'A'	5	3	2	0	29
Crawfords 'C'	5	1	3	1	24
Panto	5	1	3	1	22
Eng. Elec. 'C'	4	2	2	0	21
Beauclair 'C'	5	2	3	0	21
St. Elizabeth's	5	1	4	0	20
Police 'B'	4	0	3	1	11
Linnets 'D'	5	0	5	0	6
University 'B'	3	0	3	0	5

The Division shows several changes from last season, Colonsay 'B' and English Electric 'A' having left us for a higher sphere, while Bohs. 'C' and Wyde Y.C. are also no longer with us. The newcomers to the Division are Wav. Lab. 'C' (relegated from Div. 2B), Panto, St. Elizabeth's, Hilltop and Beauclair 'C' (promoted from the 4th Division.

It would appear that from the first month's results Bath St. 'B', Hilltop and Orrell (strengthened by the close season signings of former Wyde players Tony Morris and Pete Sinclair) are the most likely contenders for the top spot, with Trinity 'A', Wav. Lab. 'C' and Crawfords 'C' also in the hunt. At the other end of the table Police 'B' and Linnets 'D' seem to be in trouble already.

English Electric 'C' no longer have the services of Dave Money and without him can only be classed as an average team. Beauclair 'C', St. Elizabeth's and Panto also fall into this category. University 'B' and College of Technology are, at the time of writing, behind with their fixtures, but we shall no doubt find out just how good their respective sides are within the next few weeks.

Hilltop's most difficult match so far was when they were held to a draw by Crawfords 'C'. T. Daly did well to win both his sets for Crawfords while Bobby Chew and R. Lock won two each for Hilltop. Although I have no details, have just heard that Hilltop have been held to another draw by Wav. Lab. 'C'. This result is made more interesting by the fact that the Labour Club were one short due to a player going down with the flu.

Bath Street's best performance to date was when they defeated Orrell by 7 sets to 3 in a top of the table clash at Harris Drive. Harry Dumbell and L. Crossley, both scored doubles for Bath St., the former beating Gordon Kirk and Morris, both sets going to three while Crossley defeated Gerry Brint and Sinclair. Barbara Taylor, Alan McNamee and Bill Cunningham scored Bath St.'s other sets. With Kirk, Morris and Brint replying for Orrell. It is interesting to note that both these teams have called on only five players each to

represent them in their matches so far. Most of the other teams have used seven or eight players already, some of these sides must wish that they, too, could field the same five each week.

There are only five players with

8 wins from 8 sets played, these being R. Bailey (Trinity 'A'), R. Chew (Hilltop), N. Burrows (Wav. Lab.), Crossley and Dumbell (Bath St. 'B'), Ken Hartley (Beauclair 'C') and Morris (Orrell) have each won 7 out of 8 sets played.

DIVISION 4A

By ALAN WYCH

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Palmerston 'A'	4	3	1	0	27
Eng. Elec. 'D'	3	3	0	0	25
Bath St. 'D'	4	2	2	0	22
Wav. Lab. 'D'	3	2	1	0	20
Police 'C'	4	2	2	0	20
Rafters 'B'	4	1	2	1	19
Essemmay	3	2	1	0	16
University 'C'	2	2	0	0	14
Knotty Ash 'B'	3	1	1	1	13
Colonsay 'D'	3	1	2	0	11
Coll. of Tech.	4	0	4	0	10
St. Patrick's	3	0	3	0	3

As a new entrant to the League I have been talked into writing these notes by a member of my club who assures me there is nothing to it, however, I am already beginning to doubt his assurances on this point but will get on with it and try and do my best to satisfy everyone.

The first job I understand is to welcome the new clubs to the league and commiserate with those who have joined us from a higher division, but apparently no-one was relegated last season so its a welcome to the new clubs only and a happy and enjoyable season to all.

The first few weeks of the season have produced some interesting results and the three new teams in the league have made a satisfactory start. Ten of Bath St. 'D's' points have been gained from a walk-over at the expense of St. Patrick's. It might just happen that Bath St. 'D' could win the league with these ten gift points given to them so easily, and that would be rather a shame. St. Patrick's take note!

English Electric 'D' are likely to be strong challengers for the division title. They showed their true colours with a 9-1 win over Knotty Ash 'B', J. Longstaffe, E. Jane, W. Ellard and R. Callaghan were undefeated for the home team, whilst P. Pownall gained the only win for his team at the expense of T. Gordon, Palmerston

'A' have also made a good start and had a most convincing win against Linnets 'F' 10-0. Only two sets went to three games. However this win will not help them in the championship race as Linnets 'F' have become one of the early season casualties.

St. Margaret's (Essemmay) a completely new club to the league, had a good win in their first match against Police 'C' away 6-4. Phil Metcalf (ex-1st Division player) and R. Dawson both got a double and D. Collins and myself the other two. For the Police, K. Fullard won two and A. Robinson and R. Carter one each. St. Margaret's had a troubled start to the season as they had no table but thanks to the Parents Association this difficulty has now been resolved and they will commence playing their home fixtures on their own table.

Wavertree Labour have entered a 'D' Team in this division and they have also made a good start to the season. They revealed their potential in an 8-2 win at Colonsay. A. Moon, A. Metcalf and S. Russell were undefeated for the visitors whilst J. Barton and P. Fleming won one each. For the home team K. Rodgers and Miss B. Newport were the victors. The Labour Club have recently crashed 10-0 to English Electric and this will place English Electric firmly at the top.

Division 4A is a mixed division in the true sense of the word. Against Wavertree Labour Colonsay fielded three females, and against Palmerston 'A' Linnets fielded no less than four — Palmerston must have been wondering if they were at the right match.

The question of relegation is non-existent as we are already two teams short, thanks to the withdrawal of English Electric and Linnets 'F' teams, so those at the bottom of the division can, as in past seasons, enjoy their games without having to worry about relegation.

DIVISION 4B

By JACK LAMBERT

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Mossley Hill 'A'	5	4	0	1	40
Pirates	4	4	0	0	33
Bootle YMCA	4	3	0	1	32
Bath St. 'C'	4	3	1	0	25
Eng. Elec. 'E'	5	2	3	0	23
Knotty Ash 'A'	4	2	2	0	18
Stanley House 'A'	4	2	2	0	18
Palatine	4	2	2	0	17
St. Edward's 'A'	3	2	1	0	16
Lussac 'A'	4	1	3	0	14
Police 'D'	5	0	5	0	13
Orrell 'A'	5	1	4	0	13
Vagabonds 'A'	3	0	3	0	8

I came to 4B hoping for a reasonably comfortable retirement and I find the division loaded! To newcomers I say welcome and hard luck, you picked the wrong year and were selected for the wrong division. To the loaded ones, you will probably find it tougher than you expected. All of which means that we are going to have a much divided division, which is a great pity as this is where we should be encouraging new teams and players.

The upper fourth main contenders were soon having a go, with Coughlin being the only two set winner in the Bootle Y.M. - Mossley Hill draw. In the lower fourth, Lussac and Vagabonds fought a dour battle, Murphy

and Williams winning four of Lussac's six sets and P. G. Doyle scoring a double for Vagabonds, who won their first game, but lost it easier with the withdrawal of Linnets.

It's good to see so many new and younger faces around and so many teams ready to start in the 7-30 region. It makes a pleasant change to finish early instead of playing late and dashing for buses at eleven or so. These include Knotty Ash who have a couple of wins over English Electric and Orrell, Palatine who soon broke their duck, Police who have lost 6-4 twice, Vagabonds and Bootle Y.M., so let's all join the start-early brigade,

Pirates and Bath Street are two of a kind with three well-known names at the top, both upper fourth I should say. Orrell 6-4 up over Police thanks to Wake, Stanley House ditto thanks to P. Smith. St. Edwards off to a good start with a couple of 7-3 wins against Stanley House and Lussac, O'Hagan's three sets more than helped.

I received one score card which I thought Eddie Cameron would have passed on to the museum. However he managed to translate it for me, so for my sake and our Fixture Secretary's please make sure that when you finally get around to sending your score cards in we will be able to read them.

DIVISION 5

By KEVIN BAKER

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Waterloo Park 'B'	3	3	0	0	25
L.Y.C.A. 'A'	3	3	0	0	22
Odyssey	2	2	0	0	16
Sandforth 'A'	3	1	2	0	15
Knotty Ash 'C'	3	1	2	0	13
Maghull 'A'	2	1	1	0	11
Sandforth	1	0	1	0	4
C. F. Mott 'A'	3	0	3	0	4
L'pool Para.	1	0	1	0	0
Mossley Hill 'B'	1	0	1	0	0

Watch Odyssey!

Welcome to a new season and a new division. With this start comes new clubs and new faces, also you see the old faces and names coupled with players long disappeared from the scene and now making a comeback and causing a few upsets in the league placings.

Such an example was when the ex-4B Bohemians team, now Sandforth, were pipped by the skill of Odyssey's ex-1st Division players. Another team of lads taking all the points up to now is LVCA 'A' but they have yet to meet tougher opposition. Waterloo Park 'B' were fortunate to get a one player walk-over against Sandforth 'A', if the player concerned had turned up the score would certainly have been different.

With so many newcomers to the league we will probably have a much divided division but this should not cause any concern to those in the bottom half of the table as there will of course be no relegation. It is fairly obvious, even at this early stage, that Odyssey will be champions, however, and to all those aspiring for a higher division I say, take heart

as promotion from this division will probably go to the top four teams and depending on the places available, perhaps more.

In the Knotty Ash 'C' - Waterloo Park 'B' match I see that D. Davies drew level at one game all, after losing the first 21-7 and then lost the final game 21-4—I wonder what happened there?

I have not yet heard how Liverpool Paraplegic are getting on yet so cannot comment, but I know that they can rely on everyone's co-operation in making this, their first season with us, a happy and enjoyable one.

Some of the new players to the league need to be made familiar with the new service rule and club secretaries should draw their attention to this rule which is printed on Page 15 of the league handbook.

The first round of the Stamp Cup looks very interesting with Odyssey and Sandforth having the upper hand. The other teams are fairly evenly matched so we will have to wait and see who struggles through.

With so few games played in this division you will have to excuse the brevity of this report, next time I will have more to say—I hope.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

By MABEL FRANCIS

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Crawfords	4	4	0	0	36
Palmerston	4	4	0	0	32
Rafters	4	2	1	1	27
Colonsay	4	2	2	0	24
Cadwa	4	3	1	0	22
Bibbys	3	2	1	0	20
Crawfords 'A'	4	1	2	1	17
Linnets 'A'	4	1	3	0	12
Bath St.	2	1	1	0	8
Linnets	3	0	3	0	8
Colonsay 'A'	3	0	3	0	2
C. F. Mott	1	0	1	0	0

After the usual sorting out, etc., we are left with twelve teams in the division, one less than each of the last two seasons. Orrell is not showing this year and Bohemians whose name will not appear again, but I hope the players will under their new name of Sandforth, when they get the interest to do so. Sandown reappear as Crawford's 'A'.

Even at this early date the league table grouping is as would be expected—except for Bath Street who will get nearer the top after a few more weeks, having started the season with two tough matches. As previously predicted, Colonsay are proving a serious but welcome challenger to our Ladies division,

without a doubt their final placing will be much higher than last season.

Individual praises for them concerning the Inter-City and Merseyside Open are to be found elsewhere in the 'Digest' but a 'Well done' to those concerned—here too—is not incongruous.

Since writing these notes I have heard that we have got one new club, namely C. F. Mott, so I welcome them to the ranks of the few and hope they will be with us for many seasons. I understand that another club new to the league, Odyssey, have registered some women players and perhaps we may get a women's team from them next season.

I am sure we would get more women players if we could only get the message across that the chances of success in Table Tennis for women is extremely good as there is such a shortage of players. The youngsters from Colonsay have already proved this and following their displays in the Open and the 'A' Team success against Bury they must feel greatly encouraged. If we want more women's teams, and I am sure we all do, we must encourage as many girls as possible to take up our sport.

There it is—a few notes—for a few matches plus a bit of propoganda.