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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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S. D. Cameron, R. Hebson

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## **Editorial**

More often than not when opening your "DIGEST" you are confronted with words of criticism or advice in the editorial column, but in this issue I am going to start off with words of praise! Yes, I did say praise. The reason for this sudden brainstorm lies in our city bus strike.

Since the strike commenced very few teams have failed to meet their commitments, but even more important, and far more striking is the fact that during the strike there have been few recorded instances of teams playing short. When you consider that prior to the strike absenteeism was at the same level as last season, this is revealed as a really remarkable effort on the part of most members to get to their matches at all cost. I know there are some who have not tried at all but they are in a very small minority. Many car owners have given their team-mates assistance, but a great number of players have made their own way and have often had to walk home.

No praise can be too high for everyone involved, for it is difficult enough to get to and from work without having to try and get to matches as well. Another important fact is that this has been almost a full membership effort. Everyone, regardless of their league placings, have made an effort to fulfil their fixtures and thus made it possible for our Fixture Secretary and his wife to avoid going grey with worry!

This remarkable effort was continued during the 'Closed' when the number of scratchings was not much higher than previous seasons and the attendance on Finals night appeared to be better than last year.

I very much doubt if any other league in the country would be able to boast of such an effort were they to find themselves in a similar position.

So, well done everyone for giving table tennis such a shot in the arm. We are the most devoted players in the country and we defy anyone to dispute it!

As this is the last issue, a few more words of praise to those who have assisted me during my first season— and if I get the sack, my last—as editor. Thank you to those who have assisted as divisional writers, some of whom were press-ganged at short notice. If you feel like bashing on next season let me know, and anyone else interested also. My thanks to the Editorial Board and particularly Mabel Francis (asst. Editor) who has helped to deliver by hand about 500 "Digests." A method which has reduced costs and which I would like to see enlarged next season. Finally, my thanks to our most regular and successful article writer, Phil Reid. Phil does not belong to our league, but prior to each issue, and always in good time, his article arrives to ensure at least one interesting page in our magazine. We look forward to hearing from you again next season, Phil, and our thanks for your efforts this season.

## LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE LEAGUE

By Brian Leeson

The only Liverpool team to distinguish itself this season has been the Women's 1st Team. Unfortunately the final match against the undefeated Stockport team resulted in a 7-3 defeat, which gave the Stockport Ladies the league title, but nevertheless, our three ladies, Judy Crafter, Barbara Cain and Mabel Francis, must be congratulated on their results: Won 4, Drawn 1, Lost 1.

The Men's 1st team finished the season with a 7-3 win at Lytham and so ensured a respectable League position: Won 4, Lost 3, Drawn 1.

The Men's 'A' team beat Preston 'A' convincingly in the final match by 10 sets to nil, and so avoid relegation, I believe, on sets average. The policy with the 'A' team has been to use players in the 'younger' age group, rather than the 'older' performers, but the lack of really promising players with ability in this age group must cause next year's committee to think hard before deciding the best course to take. The question is, is it beneficial to blood younger players in the 'A' team with a view to grooming them for 1st team places, or should the 'A' team always be the best players available, even if they are the oldest players in the League? Personally I think a compromise is needed, a blending of youth and experience. One thing is certain, whatever is decided will be criticised by writers, leading players and other self-appointed selection experts. It isn't until you have actually got the job to do that you really understand the many difficulties involved.

Several of the players who have represented Liverpool this season have, of course, previously been

awarded their City badges. A number of new faces have appeared in the teams this year, however, and as a result of their performances, the following have been awarded badges by the Management Committee and are to be congratulated.

Men's 1st Team—  
George Smith.

Women's 1st Team—  
Barbara Cain.

Women's 'A' Team—  
Pam Fidler, Jean Mackenzie,  
Janet Rumjahn.

Youth Team—  
Richard Heath, Ian Wensley.

Junior Team—  
Alan Williams, Michael Jones.

Sincere thanks must be extended to the non-playing Captains of the Liverpool teams who have devoted much of their leisure time transporting players to all parts of Lancs. and Cheshire, and then officiating at all home games. Ken Jones (Men's 1st team), Vic Chesham ('A' team), Elizabeth Loughrey and Kay Rumjahn (Women's 1st) and Alan Heague (Women's 'A') have undertaken these duties throughout the season, while Les French has taken the Juniors on a couple of occasions.

Finally, thanks to the clubs who have allowed their premises to be used for the numerous inter-city matches—Liverpool Y.M., English Electric, Crawfords, Bootle Police, Wavertree Labour and Colonsay. Without the assistance and continued co-operation of these clubs it would be almost impossible to run so many representative teams in the city.

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# Pardon my intrusion . . . .

By Philip Reid

I always feel a bit of an intruder when I write for your magazine. There is the danger that it might sound as though I am trying to say how things should be done up in Liverpool. However, Ken Armson tells me I am always welcome to write on things of either a local nature or on more general lines. I will then in this, my final article for the season, try to do a little on both. Can I firstly express a view on the excellent article by Ken in the March issue entitled "Time for a Change." Our local league—Leicester and District—is I imagine, one of the few which runs identically to the Liverpool and District. We have one 1st and 'A' and 'B' streams in subsequent divisions. We too feel four up and four down from the 1st Division is far too many, and the way we got over that is that the TOP CLUB ONLY is promoted from each of 2A and B and thus only two teams are relegated from Division One. It may well be considered that one team isn't enough to be promoted. In our case we have found that quite often it is one too many as there are a number of teams which are not quite good enough for the 1st division, but too strong for the 2nd. Promoting and relegating four simply increases this number. I am not saying Liverpool ought to try this. What I am saying is that as far as I know it has worked wonderfully well in Leicester with no complaints.

In my last article I spoke about 'Where do International Players Come From?' And I mentioned in the main—London. It may be worth saying a word or two then about England's great win over Russia in the European League by 4 sets to 3, at Birmingham. Of the three men in the team not one came from London. Denis Neale (Middlesborough), Alan Hydes (Barnsley) and Ian Harrison (Gloucester). The lady in the team was Mary Wright, who of course hails from Mitcham, Surrey. The team was, I think, shrewdly chosen. Denis Neale's current form made him a 'must' for the team, but who else? Currently Stuart Gibbs has not been on top form

which virtually ruled him out. Ian Harrison's defence is always troublesome to the best in Europe and his increased inclination to hit has improved his game at a time when he should, by rights, be on the decline. Alan Hydes, who has shown himself as a superb doubles player was included in this capacity. Ian wasted no time at all justifying his inclusion. He played Gomoskov, the European No. 1, in the first set of the night, and the match appeared to be taking the expected pattern when the Russian took the first. Some fantastic retrieving coupled with a number of first-rate kills brought Harrison an unexpected but completely deserved win. Then Denis Neale beat Amelin after conceding the first, and almost unbelievably the score reached 3-0 when Mary Wright, after being hit off the table in the first game by the European Number One, Zoya Rudnova, came back to move her opponent all over the place to win the next two. This really was a tremendous win for which Ron Crayden must take some of the credit.

The Russian's vicious hits were coming down both wings equally fast and Mary was clearly in trouble against the pen-holder. The second game changed all that. She moved her opponent about, tempted her into hitting when she was not in the right position to do so, and made all kinds of Harrison-like returns when the shots did come over. Then, out of the blue, she produced a stream of her own kills! The result—England led 3-0. Both doubles went to Russia and the score was 3-2. Now the pressure was on again. Could England do it? Neale v. Gomoskov. One game each. Third game: 19 all. Neale gets a lucky one—20-19. A rally—Gomoskov hits off. England have won. Harrison lost the last set—against Amelin—which incidentally was the only one which didn't go to three—but it did not affect England's deserved win. It was a fine match with sportsmanship of the highest level.

Well—that's it for this season.

# The Liverpool Closed Tournament

By Brian Leeson

Gordon Birch retained the Men's Singles title when the Closed Championships took place at New Heys Comprehensive School during April. His hardest match was against Roy Smith in the Quarter Finals, when he just got through 23-21, 22-20, but his other games including that against George Smith in the semi-final were all straight forward two set wins. There was a moment of suspense in the Final against Tony Rigby, however, when his opponent took the second game and seemed to be keeping level, but eventually Gordon won with reasonable comfort 21-7, 16-21, 21-15.

Rigby's path to the Final was not quite so easy for both Tolson and Clewett took a game off him. In the Quarter Final he defeated the seeded P. D'Arcy in straight games, before disposing of Arthur Taylor in the semi 17-21, 21-13, 21-14.

Before losing 11 & 8 to Gordon in the semi-final, George Smith had five clear cut victories behind him, none of his opponents being able to take even one game off him. Jack Davidson had earlier caused an upset by defeating last year's finalist, D. Butterworth, 19 and 15, but he found George Smith too difficult to crack and lost by 6 and 15.

Arthur Taylor's hardest match was against Trevor Owen in the Quarter Final. In a very close, exciting match, Taylor emerged as winner by 18-21, 21-15, 22-20.

The Women's Singles title was taken from Judy Crafter by Barbara Cain. Showing grim determination, she made sure in the third game of a big lead and eventually won quite comfortably 21-13, 18-21, 21-12. Barbara had beaten Mabel Francis in the semi and Jean Reynolds in the quarters, while Judy had recorder wins over Joyce Randall and Val Lee.

The Final of the Men's Doubles saw Birch and D'Arcy retain their title with a surprisingly easy win 12 and 11 over Mandaluff and Butterworth, but they were perhaps fortunate to survive an earlier round against Youd and Kenwright 22-20 in the third, Mandaluff and Butter-

worth's hardest round was in the semi against Owen and Moran, which took three games to decide.

The Women's Doubles prize went as expected to Barbara Cain and Joyce Randall, who beat Mabel Francis and Muriel Cox 19-21, 21-17, 21-13 in the Final. Barbara and Joyce had a shock in the semi-however, when Jean Mackenzie and Pam Fidler took them to three close games.

Jean and Pam in fact had to face each other in the Junior Girls Final. Pam took the title in two straight, 22-20, 21-18, but this was again a very close contest.

The Boys' Final was not so close, however, and the superior play of Bailey was rather too much for Alan Williams. Frank won 8 and 12, and so took the Junior Cup and prize.

The Mixed Doubles resulted in a win for Gordon Birch and Judy Crafter over the holders, Pete D'Arcy and Barbara Cain, 21-13, 14-21, 21-14, while the Veteran's Final, another contest between Vic Chesham and Peter Rumjahn, gave Vic the title for another year.

The Restricted Singles once again proved a very popular event. The winner D. Sayle, Sefton, faced P. Coughlin (Mossley Hill) in the Final and just managed to win 14-21, 21-13, 21-19. In the Consolations Finals A. Merali beat I. Grundy 18 and 17 in the Men's Event, while M. Collins beat J. Rumjahn 16-21, 21-18, 21-12 to take the Women's prize.

Many thanks must be extended to all those who helped in the running of the Tournament, including several league officials and many individual players, but in particular I must acknowledge the important voluntary contribution of the boys and girls of New Heys School. They erected the tables and surrounds before the tournament started, acted as runners for the Referee, assisted in the Canteen, sold raffle tickets, and then helped to dismantle everything and got the hall ready for the Finals and restored the gym to its previous condition. Without this help, given so cheerfully and uncompromisingly, the Tournament would have been very difficult to run.

# Net Cords

By T. T. Ball

Firstly some song titles adopted for this season :

St. Elizabeth's—  
" We shall not be moved "

English Electric—  
" Come and join us "

Mandaluff & Clein—  
" It's been a hard day's night "

C. F. Mott—  
" So long, it's been good to know you "

Liverpool Y.M.—  
" There goes my everything "

Myself--  
" No regrets "

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I have been patient, even understanding, but can desist no longer. Since when did the League stand for dictatorship and censorship? Show us the picture in the advert or face the consequences!

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Just how strict is the Management Committee on ranking lists? It is now revealed that Neil Mehta is ranked in the Liverpool YM 'B' team. This is ridiculous, Mehta is obviously considered a 1st team player by the YM. He also plays an important games for their 'A' team, and now, after a Readman cup final appearance for the 1st team, he appears for the 'B' team in a cup final and in an important league match. This is not a personal sling at Mehta for it has nothing to do with him the way the YM decide to rank their players. But what on earth was the Management Committee doing to allow a situation like this to come about?

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A rumour going around says that Ted Mandaluff visited the Maharishi in preparation for playing Eddie Clein. When he arrived he discovered that Eddie was the Maharishi!

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Should there be a residential qualification for inter-city league matches? In one of our inter-city matches our opponents team did not appear to contain one player who resided in the town which he represented.

:: :: :: ::

Bad blood was caused between Linacre and YM 'B' by the regular calling of YM players for foul serves during a cup final. Now, whilst one must applaud the respective scorers for their courage, one can only wonder whether they would have been so strict in a Readman Cup Final.

:: :: :: ::

Two clubs have been having trouble with electricity. Apparently Dave Cohen has failed to save enough 'threepences' and as a result L'pool Jewish had their electricity cut off!

Linnets had their cable stolen for the second season running. What could anybody do with an electric cable? Any printable replies (to the Editor) will be gratefully accepted.

:: :: :: ::

I think that the letter from Ernie Sturgess suggesting a more regional basis on the lower divisions deserves consideration. However, I'm sure that a certain gentlemen based on the East Lancs. Rd. will have something to say about the 'balance of power' in the regional divisions!

:: :: :: ::

I feel a word of praise should be given to those pressed into service as "unpaid" taxi drivers during the bus strike. They have kept the league going. To some of them, of course, it was just like a "busmans holiday." (Ugh!).

:: :: :: ::

Finally, it's sad to think that we may have seen the last of Pete D'Arcy as a regular league player. He was one of the few top players locally, not to be caught up in controversial incidents. He'll be missed.

# The 'Closed' Financially

By Don Cameron

It is pleasing to report that this year the financial aspect of the Closed has resulted in a profit of £16 towards the league funds. There was a very good entry again and this year we took over £4 at the door which was well placed (the door!) as opposed to our venue last year when door takings were almost nil. Our thanks again to the group of girls who extracted money from us to make a profit of £6-10-0 on the draw, also to the catering section who contributed just over £5.

Our expenses were £70, we spent more money on prizes, but the hire of the school was only £13-12-8. Other expenses were normal. The full details are shown below rounded off to the nearest pound.

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Entry Fees ....	61	Hire of Rooms ....	14
Door ....	4	Printing ....	6
Draw ....	7	Prizes ....	24
Catering ....	5	Insurance ....	1
		Gratuities ....	3
		Balls ....	2
		Cartage ....	8
		Cups ....	3
		Profit ....	16
	£77		£77

## The Delivery of your 'Digest'

The announcement of higher post office charges from next September may have had very little impact on you personally, but on the "Digest" finances it will be an additional burden. We send bulk and separate "Digests" by printed paper rate, and as this facility ceases in Sept. the cost of sending each issue will probably go up by as much as £2, perhaps more. We obviously cannot absorb such an increase and must find ways of cutting our costs.

This season Mabel Francis and I have been experimenting, as many members will be aware, in the delivery of magazines by hand in two areas where a number of members live close together. To date we have delivered about 500 by this method, some in bulk form. Keith Fitzsimmons has also assisted with the

delivery in Liverpool 17. There are other areas where groups of members live and can be covered by this method. All it requires is the assistance of one or two members with transport (we have cycled) willing to undertake the job. The areas are Liverpool 8, 9, Maghull, Bootle 20 and Waterloo, to name a few.

There are also considerable numbers of members who either live in the same street or see each other every day. If these people agreed to take delivery of "Digests" for distribution, plus assistance from anyone willing to cover an area, or part of an area, we can greatly reduce costs to the benefit of everyone.

If you would like to help, or think you may be able to help, why not drop me a line or give me a ring at HUN 3073.

### SUMMER PRACTICE.

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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

With reference to the letter from Mr. D. Berry in your March issue I am amazed that there are still people who cannot 'turn' a case to its logical conclusion. Since it is possible that there are others in the same position I will endeavour to clarify the position for them, thus :

(a) I FIRMLY BELIEVE IN 'ORDER OF MERIT.' I have done so for many years and, as can be borne out by the Organising Secretary, have made several attempts at A.G.M's. to have the rules altered accordingly, but without success.

(b) The article written in 1960, which seems to perturb Mr. Berry was written under the existing rules. If he had read my February notes and had understood them, he would have realised that it is my conviction that, in order to survive under *any* system, one must conform with the established custom under that system. Therefore, under present rules, team orders are written out with reserves in the 'suicide' spots more often than not, these normally at 1 and 2.

(c) The reference to Ralph Gunnion just cannot be understood. Ralph has *always* been registered with the league as a member of our 1st team . . . for whom the number of players have not dropped below *six* registered for the past eight years . . . six for Ralph and two previously for Colin Thomas. We have had as many as *nine players* 'tied' to our 1st team at one time, in an effort to avoid such smears as this one. For confirmation, please apply to Fixture Secretary.

It should be obvious, even to Mr. Berry, that the offending article of 1960 and my February notes go together, and are not contradictory. I firmly believe in 'order of merit,' but, if that is not permitted to me, I believe that any captain who does not take full advantage of the rules is guilty of dereliction of his duty. Since this has led to the present position where players are getting fed up long before the end of the season because they are so seldom playing against well-matched opponents, and all too many 'freak' results, it is obvious that 'order of merit' is something devoutly to be wished.

Yours sincerely,

J. R. Green,

Linnets & Aigburth T.T.C.

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Sir,

I would like to comment on the rather sarcastic comments of Eddie Cameron in the Division 3 notes in the March issue.

Allow me to answer the question of why 3B were allowed to enter the Hyde Cup at all. We were allowed to enter because we in 3B are every bit as good as teams in 3A.

Taking the point a little bit further, my own club, Trinity, beat Maghull 7-3 in the Hyde Cup. In the next round we had two 5-5 draws with Bath St. 'A', eventually losing on aggregate games. I cannot of course speak for the other clubs in 3B, but if any 3A team thinks they could plaster Trinity then they are invited to try. Please phone AIN 1279 to make arrangements. But remember 2 draws out of Bath St. is seemingly MORE than Eddie Cameron's, or any other team for that matter, could manage!

On further reading, and getting away from the Cup, I find that Mr. Cameron doesn't think captains sit up at night working team orders out. Again let me correct him . . . we at Trinity do just that! We plan each game, fiddle and change our order as we rate the opposition warrants, and the proof of the planning is in the fact that Trinity are probably going up this season. I hope Mr. Cameron's team, with no apparant planning, does the same!

To conclude I would like to examine the recent comments in the "Digest" concerning team orders. When sending in ranking forms at the start of the season why not rank players A, B, C, D & E? When playing 'C' plays No. 3 or higher, no lower. Player 'B' at 2 or 1, no lower. Player 'D' at 1, 2, 3 or 4, no lower. If a reserve is necessary he comes in at the position vacated, e.g., if player 'C' is unable to play he comes in at 3, and only 3. The same for the rest of the team positions.

Thus all 'fiddling' as such is cut out, and we have true table tennis matches. Not 'fiddles' with whole teams switching, as they do at present. Would anybody care to propose something like this? Possibly not. For some of the fun and unpredictability would be taken out of the game. Something for which there is no substitute (apparently)!!

Yours sincerely,

J. S. Hankin,

Trinity T.T.C.

:: :: :: ::

Dear Sir,

I must say that I am amazed at the glib statements in the last couple of issues regarding the wonders of the twin stream and I regard this as pure brain washing. The basic facts without going into stale detail are that once in an era it benefits an odd good team, whilst *every* season half of the twin division teams are playing at least a division higher than they should be, with anomalies galore, and dare I whisper that this is the reason we did away with the cosy regions—*anomalies*—and we vote them back with twin stream!!

Surely we are all against absentees, but further legislation will not stop them, apart from the odd case I feel that most absenteeism is caused through an unforeseen circumstance, which can only be overcome by carrying a reserve, and how many teams can do that?

Far more important to us all, I think, is that the word fiddle now appears to have left our game and with the points for sets system we now have all kinds of peculiar playing orders, and to hell with the game as long as we get our odd point or two.

John Molyneux's 'Net Cords' are so good that I suppose we have to put up with the odd item that is not quite correct (the twin stream never did English Electric any good—for 27 years we weren't good enough—and then we were and went up, quite simple).

I think our Hon. Editor requires a pat on the back for his venture into the publishing business. His enthusiasm knows no bounds. I was sure he would need plastic surgery when Wavertree Labour won the Readman Cup—his smile was so wide and continuous. I think you have had an excellent first season with the magazine. Ken, keep it up.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Lambert,

English Electric.

Dear Sir,

It is a relief to complete a season without reading in the "Digest" lectures by the hierarchy on so called etiquette. Last season nearly every copy criticised the so called offenders. Surely a more up to date and realistic approach should be forthcoming. I notice many of the critics are from the pre-war table tennis era and don't seem to have moved a day forward since.

These people would like us to be all present at 7.30 p.m. and sit through often inferior matches until around 10.30 p.m. They would also like the people arriving after 8.0 p.m. to forego their game. Surely they realise that many people just cannot make it before 8 p.m. I presume they would then like to see these people driven out of the game.

Surely, if a match can proceed with may be a player absent, why worry about hold-ups? No other game I am sure has so little player participation of the total match time. This brings me to another point often voiced. If some players break the monotony by slipping out for a drink, loud voices are often raised in protest. Surely, as I pointed out above, if the game can proceed on its way, it matters little as long as the players concerned are on call or know when they are required.

Comments have been made about it being "anti-social for players to be absent." Surely it is far more anti-social hardly exchanging a word all evening with your opponents—and more social to have a drink with them while the game continues.

I also believe that the attitude of many young players coming into the game is wrong. They bring a tension into the game that is completely unnecessary. Surely, there must be something fundamentally wrong with the psychology of coaching. The majority of these youngsters sit, bats at the ready, as if waiting for the guillotine. They cannot play a relaxed game and when they lose, are near to tears, and in the case of one tragic young fellow, did actually burst out crying.

The people coaching are no doubt sincere, but seem to have instilled so much dedication into these youngsters that the tension is always present, and I, for a start, find no pleasure playing teams that contain their like.

Yours sincerely,

R. L. Davies

Liverpool Pirates T.T.C.

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# Around the Divisions

## DIVISION 1.

By Jim Green

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
W'tree Lab.	22	19	2	1	171
English Elec.	22	18	1	3	157
L'pool YMCA	22	17	3	2	155
W'tree Lab. A.	22	13	9	0	127
Bath St.	22	11	5	6	126
L'pool YMCA A.	22	11	9	2	114
Rafters	22	8	12	2	101
Linnets	22	6	15	1	92
Mossley Hill	22	3	13	6	84
Beauclair	22	8	14	0	81
W'loo Park	22	4	15	3	78
Linnets 'A'	22	0	20	2	34

So we must congratulate W'tree Labour, who have added the championship to the Readman Cup honours already won. We must give them full credit for a fine season's play, crowned with honours well won. They have stuck grimly to their task and can look back on this season with a feeling of pride. They have been a strong side for some years without being quite good enough to win the title, but with the acquisition of Tony Rigby from Preston, their team improved tremendously, and with it their chances. They took their chance, and ran out comfortable winners.

What gave everyone far more of a surprise than this, was the complete and extraordinary collapse of 6-times champions L'pool YM at the tail end of the season. In successive matches, when at the top, they lost 4 sets to Linnets, 6 to W'tree Labour and 9 to Eng. Electric. They then gave a 10-0 walk-over to Bath St. and with the loss of these 29 points they lost their championship by 16 sets! They appeared to lose all their fight on the run-in. However, nobody can count them as out of the running for next season. But, not only did they lose their championship, they lost their chance of finishing in second place.

English Electric, runners-up, gave up all hope of honours about Xmas

time, having lost too many sets to 'upside-down' teams, and privately, I'm of the opinion that nobody is more surprised than they are that they are now in second place, thanks mainly to the benevolence of the YM. They did have the satisfaction of inflicting the heaviest defeats of the season on their rivals, 8-2 v. W'tree Labour and 9-1 v. L'pool YM, but if they want to come close next year they will have to strengthen their tail.

At the bottom end, only two teams are due to go down, since there are two vacancies in the division. From the outset Linnets 'A' were doomed owing to loss of key players, and after a long struggle, it now transpires that Waterloo Park will accompany them to division 2. The position was in doubt right to the end, for in their final match against English Electric Beauclair picked up an invaluable 3 sets to finish by that margin ahead of the Waterloo side, and Mossley Hill struggled manfully 6 sets clear in their last two games. Both of these teams were too close to relegation for their own comfort, and the sighs of relief from both camps are approaching gale force!

There have been far too many freak results in the division this year. There always are one or two, as well as genuinely surprise results, but this season the number of these freaks has been out of all proportion. Mainly, these have been due to teams playing upside down, or inside out. At the League A.G.M. club secretaries will be asked to vote on 'order of merit.' I do ask them to consider these proposals very carefully before giving their verdict; the welfare of the league and the sport depends on their votes in this instance, so too hasty a judgment is very much to be deplored.

Well, have a good summer, and get in a bit of practice ready for next season, when, I sincerely hope, I'll be seeing you.

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## SPECIAL NOTICE.

The League A.G.M. will take place at the Liverpool YMCA on Monday, 27th May, commencing at 7.0 p.m. This is your chance to have your say and air your opinions, make sure you take it.

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**DIVISION 2A. By Ken Armson**

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
<b>CADWA</b> .....	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>W'tree Lab. 'B'</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>147</b>
Linacre .....	22	17	4	1	138
Crawfords 'A'	22	14	6	2	136
Stanley House	22	10	7	5	119
Rafters 'A'	22	10	9	3	114
Eng. Elec. 'A'	22	10	11	1	108
Colonsay 'A'	22	6	11	5	104
L'pool Jewish	22	6	10	6	100
L.P.A.S. 'A'	22	4	16	2	69
Lussac .....	22	1	18	3	50
University 'A'	22	2	19	1	48

As was expected from the outset Cadwa have finished as worthy divisional champions and regain their rightful place in the 1st division. They have remained unbeaten and have not even been extended, except for one unfortunate incident with Crawfords which almost upset the promotion battle, they have turned out a strong side as regularly as possible in spite of having the championship sewn up many weeks ago.

The runner-up spot was not settled until the very last match of the season, the prize eventually going to Wavertree Labour. As I forecast some of the near contenders had a big hand in the final run-in. Crawfords jumped back into the reckoning, thanks to that 10-0 w.o. from Cadwa, but crashed out again in their final match, going down 8-2 to Stanley House. Linacre, in their last two

matches, dropped six sets to Police and English Electric, and W'tree Labour dropped 4 sets to L'pool Jewish, but needing only two sets from their final match they finally clinched second place and promotion again to the 1st division.

Colonsay 'A' have been a disappointing side this season, they have a good side but have not got the results one would expect from them. For example, they lost 6-4 at Rafters and in the return fixture crashed 10-0 on their own table and yet they have gained draws with Stanley House, Liverpool Jewish and W'tree Labour.

At the bottom it's Police, Lussac and University. Judging by some of the Police results I feel they will improve on this position next season. Lussac and University will avoid the drop, but in Lussac's case I think they might have welcomed it, as it is they are faced with yet another season of struggle and almost certain relegation.

I must mention before closing what must surely be the season's most surprising personal result—Harry Evans (Eng. Elec.) who I spoke of in the March issue, has added Judy Crafter to his list of conquests winning 23-25 in the third. Well done, Harry!

Finally, if there is any player in the division, male or female, who would like to write these notes next season, will they please get in touch with me.

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**DIVISION 2B. By Gerry O'Keeffe**

	P	W	L	D	Pt.
L'pool YM 'B'	26	24	1	1	198
Colonsay	26	20	5	1	188
Trinity	26	19	2	5	177
L.P.A.S.	26	16	7	3	162
Eng. Elec. 'B'	26	16	7	3	155
Crawfords	26	13	8	5	138
University	26	11	13	2	122
Sparta	26	8	16	2	116
Beauclair 'A'	26	10	15	1	111
Colonsay 'B'	26	7	16	3	109
L'pool Jewish A	26	8	15	3	100
St. Edward's	26	5	18	3	97
<b>Linnets 'B'</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Palmerston</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>71</b>

Well, that's it then. The end of another season. At the time of writing some teams have games still to play but these notes will be accompanied by the final league table. However, the promotion and relegation battles have been decided. Y.M. and Colonsay go up to Div. 1 and Palmerston and Linnets 'B' finished at the bottom of the table. Trinity have had hard luck again, finishing 3rd and having beaten Colonsay 6-4 in a hard fought game near the season's end.

I see Y.M. brought in N. Mehta for their vital match against rivals Colonsay. This player apparently played most of the season in the Y.M. 1st div. teams. He duly won both of his sets and Y.M. won 7-3. Dave Piper seems to have acted as non-playing captain for this match.

Colonsay got 10 points from Beauclair but were helped by the fact that Beauclair only had three players. They were similarly assisted by Crawfords who also could only field three players and lost 0-1.

St. Edward's fielded three reserves for their game with English Elec. and surprisingly took four points from them. P. Byrne, who has played only four or five matches this season did well to win both his sets including a win over George Moon.

There is little left to say to close the season except to wish Y.M. and Colonsay the best of luck in the 1st division. I have no doubt they will find it a harder struggle to keep their feet than it was to win promotion, but I think they are both good enough to stay up now they have got there. No doubt we will

have some new faces next season in the teams promoted from the 3rd divisions.

**DIVISION 3A. By Eddie Cameron**

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
<b>Bath St. 'A'</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>Vagabonds</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Sefton</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>146</b>
W'loo Pk. 'A'	24	14	4	6	145
L'pool YM 'C'	24	13	5	6	142
Crawfords 'B'	24	12	8	4	136
Maghull	24	10	8	6	128
Cadwa 'A'	24	10	7	7	125
Knotty Ash	24	3	15	6	97
Colonsay 'C'	24	5	14	5	85
L'pool Jewish B.	24	3	15	6	84
Beauclair 'B'	24	4	19	1	78
<b>L.Y.C.A.</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>58</b>

It is a clean sweep for the North end, Waterloo Park winning the cup and Bath St. the league. Vagabonds are runners-up and gaining promotion from the number 3 spot could be Liverpool YM or Sefton.

Most of the players in the league have enjoyed the intense competition as match after match has needed to be fought inch by inch; this has not been confined to the top six or seven but has included even L.Y.C.A., bottom dogs who have never given in. If L.Y.C.A. go down, as is likely, I expect a quick return the following season.

Bath St. were my choice for champions, they did not fail me despite faltering on occasions but Sefton were the only team to slip it across them in the league but W'loo Park were the ones to score a really decisive victory which led to their cup triumph.

Some of the middle of the table teams have been playing quite good stuff but have not seen their names in print. I have been taken to task about this recently, but those of you who know my style will know that sometime or other in the season all teams will get a line or two and there is no disgrace in being left to the last issue. Maghull is one of these teams, they will be finishing about eighth, not a very distinguished position in normal circumstances, but then this division has not been running to normal pattern. Maghull never looked the part of champions to me but no one could take them lightly. Stan Draper an old friend of mine,

best remembered from his days at Bohemians, leads the attack, Watson, Hay, Adams and Howarth are the balance of the team, but as I did not play at Maghull I cannot remember what they played like to give one of my usual sets of comments. I trust, therefore, that having just read their names they will not feel quite as neglected as they have felt to date.

The second team not mentioned so far is Crawfords. I was hoping to break into these notes with a banner headline 'Crawfords for Promotion' but it was not to be, they had good victories but dropped silly points, lack of consistency I suppose, altho' on paper they could field a very useful side. Gordon Benson and Arthur Harrison are amongst the best opening pair in the division, Tom Partington, Tony Thatcher and you-know-who were good enough to be three of a fivesome that finished third in 2A last season. I am not sure whether we have gone off or if 3A is stronger than last season's 2A, and quite honestly I believe the latter. My team mates think the former about me, of course, but they are a jealous lot.

It is interesting to note that having done my best all season to antagonise our fellow division 3B that they have acknowledged OUR superiority. One or two remarks I heard at the Closed however makes me think that some of 3B are rising to the bait. Let us now see who will be runners-up to 3A in the Micklesfield Medals—will it be 3B, 4A or 4B? Our team will be C. Smith (Bath St.), Lowey (Vags.) and Sayle (Sefton). If you fail me, lads, I will never live it down, so if there is a vacancy for a Fixture Secretary at the A.G.M. you will know 3B have turned the tables.

DIVISION 3B.	By Colin Stock				
	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Trinity 'A'	24	19	4	1	170
Bath St. 'B'	24	22	1	1	168
Crawfords 'C'	24	18	6	5	140
W'tree Lab. 'C'	24	14	8	2	136
Eng. Elec. 'C'	24	15	8	1	135
Orrell	24	13	8	3	132
Hilltop	24	10	11	3	114
Panto	24	9	11	4	113
Coll. of Tech.	24	6	16	2	99
Beauclair 'C'	24	4	14	6	96
St. Elizabeth's	24	6	18	0	90
University 'B'	24	5	15	4	87
L.P.A.S. 'B'	24	2	18	4	80

Bath St. 'B' and Trinity 'A' have now completed their two-horse race, with the latter winning by a short head. Congratulations to both these sides for they thoroughly deserve their promotion after finishing in third and fourth positions last season.

Having led the field for most of the time Bath St. must be feeling sorry for themselves, for under the old points system they would have won the division. They must also be wondering if playing the team order 'straight' really pays dividends, for throughout the season they have played more or less the same order. Their rivals from Trinity, however, prefer a different system, switching positions week by week, with Law and Bailey particularly hard to 'find' in the order. By adopting this policy Trinity make it very difficult for any opposing captain who decides to settle for a few sets by matching his better players against Trinity's weaker ones (no doubt Trinity claim that they have no weaker players). Bath St., meanwhile, by playing the same order each match, leave themselves wide open to such tactics.

The classic example of a team using this system is St. Elizabeth's who have an excellent No. 1 in Geoff Edmunds, an average No. 2 (Bob West) and much weaker players filling the other positions (all complaints to be addressed to the editor). After the first few weeks of the season, however, West was moved lower down the order, where he has since picked up vital sets in his side's successful bid to avoid relegation. Without West in the tail St. Elizabeth's could well have been the side for the drop to the 4th division, and not the Police.

Of course, one cannot blame the captains for taking such actions for as we all know we play for sets and not matches. If the league do not take measures to combat such tactics, 'fiddling' the order may become as widespread in the 3rd and 4th divisions as it is already in the 1st. Anyway, Trinity won the division and St. Elizabeth's stay up . . . and you can't argue with that!

If a third team is promoted from the division as seems likely, Crawfords will be the side to do so. They have improved since the start and have stayed the course well, while some of their rivals have fallen by the way-side. Even W'tree Labour, with a

strengthened side in some of their concluding matches, could not catch them, eventually finishing four points behind.

Orrell, unfortunately, must take the prize for the most disappointing side in the division. After such a bright start to the season it hardly seems credible that they should finish as low as sixth place, their only consolation being the fact that they, like myself, will be meeting most of the same sporting players next season.

#### DIVISION 4A. By Alan Wych

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Eng. Elec. 'D'	20	18	0	2	167
L.P.A.S. 'C'	20	15	4	1	142
W'tree Lab. 'D'	20	16	4	0	139
Colonsay 'D'	20	13	6	1	117
Palmerston 'A'	20	11	8	1	103
Essemay	20	8	12	0	83
Bath St. 'D'	20	7	11	2	81
Knotty Ash 'B'	20	5	11	4	78
Rafters 'B'	20	3	14	3	75
Coll. Tech. 'A'	20	2	15	3	65
St. Patrick's	20	3	16	1	50

Apologies for the fact that no notes for this division appeared in the last "Digest." They were sent too late to be included.

Well, the season is now over and no-one will dispute the fact that English Electric "D" are worthy winners. They are far too strong for this division and I wish them all the best next season in the 3rd division.

Police "C", W'tree Lab. "D" and Colonsay "D" have all had a good season, and W'tree Labour and Colonsay are both young teams at that. There are some fine prospects for the future of the game in this city in both teams and I rate John Barton (W'tree Labour) as the discovery of the season.

Nobody faces relegation owing to the withdrawal of two teams earlier in the season, so College of Tech. and St. Patrick's can breathe again.

One good match recently was the draw between English Elec. and Police. W. Ellard had a double for Electric and R. Carter stole the glory for the Police winning his two. In the College of Tech. v. Rafters "B" draw M. Orr won two for the College, after having won his first set of the season only two weeks previously.

A strengthened Rafters "B" team provided the only shock result in beating Colonsay "D" 6-4. M. Jones, W. Lamb and Jack McCaig all had a double for Rafters. W'tree Labour gave English Elec. a hard match before going down 7-3. R. Simister and Tom Gordon had doubles for the champions, and Ellard, Jane and Hewitt won one each. John Barton, P. Fleming and S. Russell were the winners for the Labour club.

I end on a sad note by having to report that University "C" have been expelled from the league, their club having conceded three walk-overs.

Hope you all enjoy the rest!

#### DIVISION 4B. By Jack Lambert

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Mossley Hill 'A'	24	23	0	1	205
Bootle YM	24	22	1	1	204
Bath St. 'C'	24	19	5	0	165
Pirates	24	15	8	1	146
Stanley H. 'A'	24	14	8	2	132
Knotty Ash 'A'	24	14	9	1	125
St. Edward's 'A'	24	10	11	3	117
Eng. Elec. 'E'	24	4	15	5	94
LPAS 'D'	24	7	17	0	93
Orrell 'A'	24	6	13	5	92
Palatine	24	3	19	2	76
Lussac 'A'	24	4	17	3	60
Vagabonds 'A'	24	2	20	2	51

What a finish to the season. After a terrific struggle between Mossley Hill and Bootle YM in both cup and league since they first drew at the beginning of the season we have to congratulate Mossley Hill 'A' on the double, and what a double. After a replayed semi, in which they beat Bootle YM on games (2), and a replay in the final, which they won 6-4, they take the league by one point. Phew! You can't get much closer than that. Well done Mossley Hill for gaining the promotion you deserve, following your second successive Forrest Cup victory. Hard lines to Bootle YM, a little more effort and you could have reversed the positions. So bow your heads those who dropped any soft sets.

Bootle YM fielded the same 5 players all season, a credit to their enthusiasm. Banks only dropped 2 sets with Alcock, Christie, Reynolds and Whorton not far behind. For Mossley Hill Roberts was the man

with most sets, they called on 9 players, O'Sullivan, Godby and Coughlin being his main support.

Bath St. must finish third—calling on 9 players with Marsh top scorer, Barrow and Letch proving real stalwarts, the latter playing in every game. Knotty Ash called on only 3 reserves, great credit to Davies, McCracken, Lowe, Lever and top scorer Wright. The young men of English Elec. gave a good account of themselves. Evans finished near top scorer despite his promotion; Hubbard and Hewett are excellent prospects.

Now the statistics with teams, players used, top scorer and player playing most. Orrell called on 9, top scorer Stevenson, with Illidge and Stevenson played most; Lussac 7—Sturgess and Cheetham—Craig; Palatine 8—Wade—Wade; Police House 7—Smith—Daiken; Pirates 9—King—Connell; Vagabonds 11—P. Doyle—Rotheram; St. Edwards 8—O'Hagan—Wood.

Burke of Lussac is another young man to watch. Stevenson (Orrell) crashed Coughlin's 100—and it was Wharton who took away Burge's (Pirates) 100—, which left Spencer (Bath St.) our only 100—man although he did not play as many games as most. Carol Wake of Orrell must rank as one of our most improved players.

Every credit must go to players in their efforts to turn up despite the bus strike. I reckon we have all had a pretty good season, the fight at the bottom being as interesting and as keen as the title tussle. Have you ever tried to field 3 teams, with Liverpool playing a cup quarter final and a bus strike, and our secretary talks of absenteeism!

I think you have all been great—even the Liverpoolians!

#### **DIVISION 5. By Kevin Baker**

With both the Stamp Cup and League title safely in the possession of Odyssey I take this opportunity on behalf of Sandforth, myself and Div. 5 teams to congratulate them on being very worthy winners.

When they met Sandforth in the cup final what seemed to be a close result in theory turned out to be a sure win for Odyssey in practice. But an early upset by G. Baker (Sandforth) and great wins by K.

Jones put Odyssey on their backs. After the interval Odyssey were on the way to victory until the last two sets. One of the Odyssey players was extremely late and everyone thought there would have to be a replay, but eventually the player in question turned up and Sandforth skipper Tommy Gee very sportingly agreed to play the two remaining sets. This turned out to be a very great sacrifice as the match ended in a 6-4 win for Odyssey, although if a replay had been necessary I think the result might have been different. Probably in Sandforth's favour.

In the league we know Odyssey are top and again Sandforth have to take second best to them with Waterloo Park 'B' third. As the Fixture Secretary is having trouble with Div. 5 fixtures I do not know the order of the rest of the teams.

As I will not be doing the divisional notes next season—in fact there may not be a 5th division—I will say farewell and good luck in your next season's table tennis.

#### **WOMEN'S DIVISION.**

**By Mabel Francis**

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Crawfords	20	17	1	2	170
Palmerston	20	16	2	2	146
CADWA	20	16	3	1	136
Rafters	20	14	5	1	136
Crawfords 'A'	20	11	7	2	124
Colonsay	20	11	9	0	119
Bath St.	20	7	12	1	78
Bibby's	20	5	15	0	69
Linnet	20	5	14	1	60
Linnet 'A'	20	3	17	0	36
Colonsay 'A'	20	0	20	0	24

Final positions are more or less the same throughout with the middle teams sorting themselves out. As I am writing these notes, there is still an outstanding match being played, that between Crawfords 'A' and Colonsay—running fairly closely but Crawfords 'A' should finish slightly ahead of their opponents.

Crawfords have finished as worthy champions for the 2nd year running. One expected Palmerston, who convincingly beat them in the final of the Bartholomew Cup, to have given Crawfords a much closer fight for the title, but inadequate reserve strength was probably the deciding factor.