

Volume 19

NUMBER 3.



FEBRUARY, 1969

PRICE 9d.

**TABLE
TENNIS
DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE DIGEST TENNIS

All correspondence must be
addressed to the Editor
"Table Tennis Digest"
21 Armscot Close, Liverpool 25
(Tel. HUN 3073)

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

— Editorial Board —

Editor : K. A. Armson,

J. O'Sullivan, A. E. Upton, J. C. McKim,

S. D. Cameron, R. Hebson

Vol. 19

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No. 3.

Editorial

We hear a lot these days about equality in various ways for women but in the Liverpool table tennis circles the boot—or should it be pump—is on the other foot. We are the only table tennis league on Merseyside with a Women's division, yet does it receive good support? Do the women take a keen interest in it? No, they do neither of these things, and yet consider what we do for them. For the same registration fee as men they can play 60 matches compared with our 30, or for an extra 2/6 they can play for two different clubs, 30 matches for each. As their division is sadly depleted we arrange a meeting to discuss the possibility of extra matches for them. Total attendance from clubs concerned two—arranged matches played—nil. An additional handicap tournament is specially arranged for them, in which great interest is being shown, so we hear. Who wouldn't be interested in a competition specially arranged for them? Of course it remains to be seen how many of them actually turn up!

In view of all the efforts being made to give them even more games it is to be hoped that they will make some effort to strengthen their division next season. I wonder how many of them try to get their friends interested in the game and assist them with coaching, etc., as the men do? Very few, if any, in my opinion.

It may seem from the above that I am not in favour of a Women's division, this is not the case. I am just trying to draw attention to some pertinent facts in the vain hope the women will start helping themselves and justify us having a Women's division.

As an experiment this season we are including the 'Closed' entry form as part of the "Digest." This does mean a reduction in pages, but there are points for and against this idea, so *please* let us have as many opinions as possible in order that we can judge whether or not you are in favour of this becoming a regular feature. In answer to those who will inevitably complain of the reduction in contents I would point out that I have received only one letter all season and only a couple of additional articles. Were it not for our 'regulars' we would be hard pressed to produce a magazine. My answer to these people is: If you want a full magazine why not try contributing something yourself? I have no doubt that this, like previous appeals, will fall on very stony ground.

Finally, don't forget the County XI match at St. George of England School, Fernhill Road, Bootle, on Saturday, 15th March, commencing 7-30 p.m., admission 2/-. We are hoping for a good turnout, so please give us your support if possible.

Lancashire & Cheshire League

By J. R. Green

The Men's 1st team have played only one League match since the last issue of the *Digest*, v. Hyde which they lost 3-7. This was an entirely unexpected result, which now places the team jointly bottom of the 1st Division. Peter D'Arcy is normally one of the main-stays of the team but against Hyde he had a really bad night, losing three invaluable sets. We have three matches left which SHOULD show us another five points, but in face of the defeat by Hyde who would be brave enough to make forecasts? In the same period we lost, also, to Bolton 5-1 in the Wilmott Cup zone final, when George Smith won our solitary set with a good win over Bryn Farnworth, and we went out of the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy at the hands of Stockport 9-1, the whitewash being saved by Barbara Cain. A disastrous month in fact.

The 'A' Team have played one match also, which was drawn v. Nelson (away). Ted Mandaluff won his three sets to preserve his 100% record. Roy Jones was unable to play in this game, and Frank Bailey played his last match for Liverpool in his place. The 'A' Team are second in Div. 2 North but they have some tough games ahead.

The Ladies 1st team have also won their only match since the last issue, v. Crewe by 9 sets to 1, which makes it a three-cornered fight between Stockport, Manchester and Liverpool at the head of the table. However, Blackpool have, as yet, played only one game, so

they must be contenders also, especially with Connie Moore available. It is an interesting position.

Our Ladies 'A' team had a relatively easy 10-0 win over Manchester Banks League, new entrants to the division this year, and next meet St. Helens (away) which they should win also. Two of our girls, Janet Rumjahn and Jean Mackenzie have been selected to play for the Lancashire 'A' team (seniors) in a Midland division match v. Denbighshire at Wrexham on Sunday, 9th February. I am delighted to hear of their selection and on behalf of everyone in the League, I wish them every bit of good luck. May they make many more appearances for the County in the future.

The Youth team have not played any matches during the period under review. They did have one scheduled to be played v. Salford Youth League, but a protest has been entered with regard to this match with the Lancs. & Ches. Committee, so since it is "sub judice" no comments are available at this stage.

The Juniors carried on with a convincing 10-0 win over Urmston (away) followed by an 8-2 win over Chester at home, and currently lie 4th in a division of 9. This was the first time Chester had lost this season, so we are in a position to hope for a higher final position for this team than for some years. Dave Crispin (Colonsay) made an impressive debut in the Junior team, winning 5 of his first 6 sets.

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By John Molyneux

Pete D'Arcy assures me that this really will be his last season, as have been five out of the last six. I think he is trying to out-comeback Gracie Fields.

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Mind you this retirement lark seems to be catching at English Electric. Gordon Birch is now threatening to pack his bat away. I can only hope that he takes as long as Peter to make up his mind—we need players of his ability far too much to lose him.

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Mrs. Randall, how could you say such a thing? Advising our ladies about chins in and chests out, indeed! No wonder Judy Crafter has decided to retire!

:: :: :: :: :: :: ::

I was watching a Hyde Cup match recently, and one of the visiting players cautioned one of our youngsters about his foul service; he was right, the service was illegal. I was just thinking to myself how nice it was to see a rebuke proffered and accepted in the right spirit when one of our better known players started to criticise the umpire. What chance do the youngsters have of learning the rules properly, if better and more experienced players do not correct them? With a little bit of luck this youngster will beat the other bloke in an important match in a few years time, preferably because of his foul serves.

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It would be easy to criticise the selectors over the 'A' team, but where have the young players gone? The answer is nowhere, as only two clubs, Wavertree Labour and Colonsay, seem to go out of their way to encourage them. The proof of this is that in the L.B.A. championships the majority of the winners over the last few years are associated with these two clubs, the rest have never been heard of again despite possessing great natural ability. When will some other clubs catch on and take this guarantee for the future of their clubs?

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It's nice to see that Eddie Clein is standing for election to the City Council. Mind you if Ted Mandaluff managed to get elected for the other lot, there'd be a few all-night sittings!

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Should the various cup competitions be seeded? Obviously there are great difficulties for the divisional cups, but I can see no reason why the "Readman" Cup can't be seeded. It seems ridiculous that the top four teams should meet each other in the early rounds leaving the final as an anti-climax—begging the pardon of YMCA 'A' or Rafter's.

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I see "Old Faithful" has sounded off right on time complaining that the Pyramid league system has produced the once "unknown" scores of 9-1 and 10-0 in some matches. There are two points to be made, firstly, surely the teams winning by these margins will find their true level in a shorter period than under the old system, and secondly, weren't these scores even more common in the old 6th, 7th and 8th divisions. I played two seasons in those divisions without taking part in a match that was as close as 6-4, let alone a draw!

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Finally, may I beg one small favour, if you are watching a game and one player returns the ball high and hits the lights, please break your bat over the head of the first person to say "A shade too high" or similar. I'll gladly buy you another one.

To Seed or Not to Seed . . .

By Philip Reid

Should local tournaments be seeded or not? I imagine up and down the country most local tournaments are seeded and may be even club tournaments. However, we in Leicester, have two tournaments a year—the Leicestershire Closed and the YMCA Invitation tournament. Virtually the same personnel enter both and the average entry in the Men's Singles is about 120. Even this is unseeded. The argument for seeding is that it keeps the best players apart and all things being equal, guarantees a final of a high standard of play. The arguments put forward against are that as our two local tourneys are players' tournaments rather than spectators (there not being more than about 25-30 who come down simply to watch) everyone should take pot luck, that it is unlikely that all the good players will be in one half and that the no seeding idea gives lesser players a chance to achieve a little glory (fleeting though it may be).

This season at the YMCA Invitation there was an entry which topped a 100 in the Men's Singles yet ironically the County No. 2 was drawn to play the County No. 4 in the 1st round. Both players have accepted it in the right spirit. Most of the top ten are in one quarter of the draw but it will make the fight for semi-final places immense.

So . . . to seed or not to seed? An interesting question I think.

IT'S NOT JUST US

What, time-wasting? Time-wasting which has often been mentioned in table tennis where a player bounces the ball, picks up his towel, anything to slow the game down for a few minutes. Well, be that as it may—it isn't just exclusive to table tennis. County cricket rules now stipulate that 20 overs must be bowled in the final hour. If not, carry on bowling until the 20 are completed. Aston Villa have been accused of time-wasting in recent visits north to Carlisle and Preston. So—as I say—it's our two most-publicised outdoor sports which have also suffered from time-wasting tactics.

CONGRATULATIONS, DEREK SCHOFIELD

Nice to see Derek Schofield, well-known for his regular visits to the Merseyside Open, has been chosen as non-playing captain of England for their match with Scotland. Derek has been around for a few years now but he has lost none of his skill, enthusiasm or sportsmanship. His choice as captain will be warmly applauded throughout the country as an imaginative piece of work and just reward for one of the game's most intelligent players.

HEARD IN THE CLUBROOM

Are his shorts long? He came dashing in for a drop-shot and tripped over the turn-up in them.

Have those two gone off-form! They are playing so badly they wouldn't get double figures against each other at the moment!

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Around the Divisions

Division 1.

By Jim Green

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
L'pool Y.M.	15	13	1	1	131
Eng. Elec.	15	14	0	1	128
W'tree Lab.	14	9	2	3	89
Beauclair	15	9	4	2	84
L'pool Y.M. 'A'	13	7	3	3	76
Cadwa	16	8	7	1	75
Rafters	15	5	7	3	71
Bath St.	14	4	7	3	65
Colonsay	14	4	6	4	64
W'tree Lab. 'A'	15	6	8	1	64
Mossley Hill	14	3	8	3	61
L'pool Y.M. 'B'	15	1	12	2	40
W'tree Lab. 'B'	14	2	10	2	35
Linnets	12	1	10	1	26

My comments on order of play in the last issue appeared to have some immediate effect, for Gordon Birch had two matches at No. 1 against W'tree Labour and Colonsay, in which he won his four sets, all in two straight. It almost looks as though it had been intended that poor Gordon had been intended to win MORE for the following week, against those doughty fighters, Liverpool Y.M. 'B' for there was Gordon, back at No. 3. Apparently 100% record pushes a player down the order rather than up! It's tough on Gordon though, for you *can't* win more than 2 sets per match!

Arthur Taylor is having a good season for Bath St., having dropped only one league set to date. He is the perfect example of what one man can do for a team, for without him Bath St. would be a lot lower down the League.

At present Linnets and W'tree Lab. 'B' are firm favourites for relegation but there is a long way to go yet, and, now that they have lost Frank Bailey, L'pool Y.M. 'B' may well be dropping back.

With four of last season's players plus Wally Allanson, Beauclair are well established in fourth place—a spot well earned by results. Wally has worked his way up from No. 3 to No. 1 and has an impressive record for the first part of the season. They deserve their high placing.

One New Year resolution not published in last month's *Digest* was that of Ken Armson—"to see that W'tree Lab. 'B' stay up." With players of the calibre of Ken Chambers and Alan Tolson in the 'B' team, now joined by Dave Roberts, it can truthfully be said

that if they do go down it will be despite his best efforts.

Colonsay are in a comfortable mid-table position, as are Cadwa. Both were relegated two years ago and came back last year, but both teams have altered since then, especially Colonsay for whom the only survivor of the 'old' team is Les French. But the movements of their team members is really puzzling. There must be some reason behind it but it must be unnerving to arrive for a match to find yourself moved up or down the order just as though the order came out of a hat!

This seems to be the common complaint these days, and the effects are to be seen in our top players, who are done out of a "hard" match every week, and who very often have to play two opponents of considerably less ability. In the scramble for points at any cost, the interests of the players (in many cases) are purely incidental, and since they are deprived of good match practice our players certainly suffer when they meet other leagues. I am not alone in this opinion, but it seems impossible to do anything about it.

DIVISION 2.

By Graham Reid.

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Waterloo Park	16	12	3	1	108
Trinity	15	10	3	2	102
Eng. Elec. 'A'	13	12	0	1	94
Colonsay 'A'	15	9	3	3	94
Linnets	16	8	6	2	93
Crawford's	14	9	4	1	81
Eng. Elec. 'B'	14	5	5	4	73
Sparta	14	4	7	3	69
University	12	5	5	2	60
Stanley House	14	2	9	3	54
Crawford's 'A'	14	3	9	2	52
Police	11	4	5	2	51
Rafters 'A'	12	0	12	0	19
Linnets 'A'	11	0	11	0	6

Waterloo Park although still top of the division have been struggling of late and while most teams expect to do better in the second half of the season, Waterloo are five sets down from their first four return fixtures. Generally the league positions seem to have remained fairly static, but having had very few score cards since the last *Digest* my own league table is two or three games behind what the real position is.

Vic Chesham has lost his 100% record to Pete King of University 24-22 in the third, thus leaving Fred Pheysey as the only regular player still unbeaten in the division.

Trinity had a hard match with the University, gaining a draw by virtue of an unplayed set being awarded to them by the Management Committee because University have to vacate their premises by 10 p.m. King of University scored a good double over Killip and Brown in straight games while John Hankin for Trinity recorded his teams only double although one of his sets was the one awarded to them by the Committee.

R. Williams of Linnets won his team's only set when they were beaten 9-1 by Colonsay, this was a good win 21-8 in the third against Ron Evans who is probably the best and most consistent No. 5 in the division with his mixture of wood and sponge.

Stanley House beat Rafter's 'A' 6-4, thanks to Alan Lynn and Harry Brown both winning their two sets. All the Rafter's players except Jean Reynolds won a set each.

I have heard on the grapevine that English Electric 'A' only turned up with 3 players against Linnets, although as yet I have heard no details of this match. This news could, if true, have an effect on the final league placings.

Finally, if you have difficulty keeping your feet on a smooth wooden block floor, do as A. Ashcroft of University does and play in your barefeet.

DIVISION 3A. By Eddie Cameron

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Bath St. 'A'	14	11	3	0	94
Knotty Ash	14	11	3	0	94
W'loo Park 'A' ...	14	8	3	3	90
Sefton	15	9	2	4	90
L'pool Jewish	14	6	4	4	83
Police 'A'	15	7	6	2	82
L'pool Y.M. 'C' ...	15	5	7	3	77
Vagabonds	14	5	7	2	65
Crawford's 'B' ...	14	4	9	1	61
Cadwa 'A'	12	6	5	1	58
Maghull	11	4	4	3	53
University 'A' ...	12	1	9	2	33
Coll. of Tech.	15	0	14	1	19

Knotty Ash have decided to win the league the hard way, apparently they could not raise a full 1st team against Bath St. so postponed their match; unfortunately the rules do not allow that and so down in the record

book goes a walk-over to Bath St. Come to think of it, Knotty Ash may well create a record by losing a match 0-10 and winning the division. Makes a more interesting fight anyway. Keith Fitzsimmons, Bob Eden and Barry Clarke will not lose many sets, they are undoubtedly out of their place in this division but it will be disappointing if they do not take their medals with them to Division 2 because they could not field a full side against Bath St.

Reading through the University score card we find L. Th'ng, Q. Liu and G. Ho, at least I think that is the way to spell the names. I wondered where this little lot came from—"little" is true enough for they are all small and no doubt they think that all Englishmen look alike too. I found they had roots in Hong Kong and Sarawak, the skipper comes from Worcester and has that common Irish name, A. Jones, whilst the fifth member of the team, G. Thorne, is almost a scouser—I am not sure if Birkenhead can boast of scouse. To my mind this league does a good job in catering for a game of table tennis for these lads, helping to break the monotony of studies and giving them a chance to keep fit and meet some of our local characters. They are a likeable team but not quite strong enough to pull themselves away from the bottom few places, with University teams, however, there is always the interesting point of a new intake each year, and, of course, a compensating loss. The present team will be happy enough to preserve division 3 status for next year's team.

Another team with a touch of the Orient about it is YMCA 'C' for their members include Philip Liu and U Ting Aung. I believe it is the latter who is off home after this season—we wish him well back in Malaya. The Y.M. have been strengthened by the return of John Donnelly from a higher division. Norman Dodson and Brian Cullen make up a team which although not holding a particularly distinguished league position have been keeping the flag flying in the Cup. They play W'tree Lab. 'C' from 3B and will have all their work cut out to get through to the final. Our other representatives, L'pool Jewish, meet Colonsay 'B' in another tough fight and we wish both our teams the best of luck as we hope for an all 3A final!

I hear that Maghull have run into some trouble with their headquarters and have been unable to play their recent home games. I am not sure how serious this is but I believe that they are now seriously considering asking some of their opponents to accommodate them by transferring games to their tables; some may consider it a blessing in disguise not having to travel to Maghull.

I hope I did not contribute to the loss of confidence by College of Tech. in any of my earlier notes; their record in the last seven matches really makes dismal reading, five defeats 10-0 and two at 9-1—it looks too late now for a recovery and very much like Division 4 for them.

Sefton, one of my earlier and not very good tips for promotion, have not lived up to their early season promise. In their last eight outings they have only once managed to get above six despite only losing two, and then only 4-6. Consistent may be but just not good enough to lift them up a division.

I never thought I would join forces with "that other lot" but we must get together to complain about being left out of the Micklesfield Medals this season. This competition is one of the best in the League and is certainly the social highlight of the year. I understand they would prefer not to be up against our strongest team, but surely we showed last season that we were quite prepared for the ladies to take the medals, in any case they cannot be afraid of 3B winning, so they at least should be allowed in.

DIVISION 3B. By Colin Stock

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Colonsay 'B'	13	12	1	0	94
W'tree Lab. 'C'	14	8	4	2	86
Trinity 'A'	12	10	2	0	78
Eng. Elec. 'C'	13	6	5	2	68
Beauclair 'A'	13	6	4	3	68
Bath St. 'B'	12	5	5	2	65
St. Edward's	11	4	4	3	61
Hilltop	12	5	5	2	59
Panto	12	3	7	2	53
L'pool Jewish 'A'	13	2	9	2	46
Orrell	9	2	4	3	39
Palmerston	14	0	13	1	23

Well, I've received the score cards at last after being posted to me over a week ago, just when I had given up hope (thank you Messrs. Cornthwaite, Hayes, McCoy, Dyson and Co.). So

instead of writing a load of rubbish about nothing I now have something to write a load of rubbish about!

The draw for the semi-finals of the Hyde Cup has just been made pairing our two remaining sides against those from the "other" division. L'pool Jewish (3A) against Colonsay 'B' (3B) and L'pool Y.M. 'C' (3B) v. W'tree Labour 'C' (3B). Could it be an all 3B Final?

At this point in the notes I feel it is my duty to say that Eddie Cameron writes a load of unadulterated rot, pulling the 3A teams to pieces and then finishing by pointing out how great our own teams are. The trouble is when I read the Cameron column I agree with nearly everything he says—I am sure that I'm not supposed to. May be I should ask John Hankin to ghost-write for me. Also, I know nothing about the Jewish or Y.M. teams, so I could not really say what the chances are of victory for either of our teams. However, I do know that Colonsay will take a lot of beating, despite the fact that their captain admitted to me that they had gone off the boil and had only scraped home in some recent matches; they still have only suffered one defeat to date, this being to the unpredictable Beauclair 'A' side.

In the last three matches Colonsay have fielded a side of any five from six players. Against Eng. Elec. their side was Riding, Sanders, Spencer, Dumbill and Denis Brookfield, the acting captain. Brookfield and Spencer each scored doubles, the former defeating Alby Parker in straight sets (without conceding double figures) and R. Simister in the third. Both Spencer's sets went close in the third, but he eventually came through 21-16 against Wally Sill, and 17 when Eric Smitton was his opposition. Riding and Sanders were the other successful players in the 6-4 win, the former beating Sill, again in the third, and Sanders accounting for Parker in straight sets. For Eng. Elec. Glyn Jones gave an outstanding performance at No. 1 by defeating both Riding and Sanders. Against Jewish 'A' Alan Guy replaced Spencer and Colonsay enjoyed a comfortable 7-3 win, with Riding, Sanders and Guy all gaining doubles. I hope they are just as successful against the Jewish 1st team. For the match with lowly Palmerston Sanders dropped out, but they didn't need him anyway and coasted to a

10-0 victory.

Meanwhile W'tree Labour have been chalking up some fine wins. They, too, accounted for Palmerston 10-0, but things were not so easy when they defeated Panto by six sets to four. You don't expect your No. 1 & 2 to lose 2 sets each, but that's just what John Hoban and Brian Jessop did, one of Jessop's defeats being to former Labour man Norman Burrows. For Panto Theo Mills gained two fine wins at No. 1.

DIVISION 4A.

By Ken Armson

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
L'pool Jewish 'B'	14	12	1	1	106
L.Y.C.A.	15	9	4	2	89
Colonsay 'D'	13	8	3	2	86
Eng. Elec. 'D'	13	8	3	2	82
Police 'C'	11	7	3	1	72
Colonsay 'C'	13	6	4	3	70
W'tree Lab. 'D'	10	8	2	0	68
Knotty Ash 'B'	14	4	8	2	61
Beauclair 'B'	15	5	10	0	60
Rafters 'B'	15	4	11	0	49
Essemay	13	4	9	0	46
Coll. of Tech. 'A'	13	2	10	1	36
Bath St. 'D'	12	1	11	0	29

What an inconsiderate lot they are at Rafters, not content with proving my prediction wrong, they proceed to turn it upside down. After drawing with Bath St. and losing the replay 6-4 earlier in the season, they defeated them in the league 9-1 plus a couple of wins over Beauclair and Essemay. To add insult to injury they have just taken two sets off us (one of them from me) just as we were gearing ourselves up for an effort to catch L'pool Jewish. "Tell the Jewish to watch out, we've hit a winning streak" was their parting shot as we left minus two valuable sets!

College of Tech. have fell away recently as a result of having to field weaker teams due to players having to study. Not for them, however, the cares and worry of relegation as table tennis is a relaxation from studying and they enjoy their games which makes it a pleasure to play against them. This could be Bath St.'s chance to improve their position at Coll. of Tech.'s expense.

The general league position is uncertain as only L.Y.C.A. and Rafters appear to be up-to-date with their fixtures. One certain fact is that the Jewish are sitting high and dry on top

of the division mainly as a result of having strengthened their team with the regular inclusion of Eddie Johnson at No. 1. My information is that he is worth a far higher place than this in their teams but as he has only played once earlier in the season there is probably a good reason for his inclusion in this team. It is now possible that they will finish the season with two 100% players. Only two clubs, Police and W'tree Lab. appear to have a chance of getting in reach of Jewish by winning their games in hand by big margins, but as one of these is v. each other their chances are pretty slim. However it is beginning to look as if one of these two will be the eventual runners-up.

The Labour Club are all playing well and recently put paid to Colonsay 'Ds' chances with a good 7-3 victory. Ron Burke (ex-Lussac) is still undefeated at No. 1 and we await the outcome of our return clash with Jewish hoping to reverse the previous result. Eng. Elec. are now fielding a regular and stronger team and obtaining good results but this has come too late to give them a chance of making the top two but they could have a big say in the final league placings. One of the surprises of this division is the failure of Beauclair 'B' to make any real headway. They are the least successful of the teams who joined us in the reshuffle and some of their results have not been as good as one would expect, especially as they have some experienced players in the side. I will have to watch out when we play them as John McKim and Renee Sturgeon tell me that they are confident I will provide them with a two set start!

Temperamental displays have been with us for many years but I am sure there has never been a display the like of which occurred in the match between my own club and L.Y.C.A. The offender being annoyed because he lost his 1st set due to his ridiculous temperament, went straight on again and proceeded to play in a ridiculous way, intent only on losing his set as quickly as possible without the slightest regard for his opponent or his team-mates. I can only praise the coolness of his young opponent who, displaying an equanimity far beyond his years, refused to be put out by his opponent's manner and played as well as he was able to under the circumstances. The offender was a member of my own club and he provided a disgusting finish to what

had been, until then, an enjoyable evening between two well matched teams. It may be of some consolation to G. Hughes to know that after they had left we told the offender exactly what we thought of his contribution to the match. If others who act like this player had been watching this set it would have cured them of it for good having seen how utterly ridiculous they look.

I see that Rafter's have introduced a new junior to the league this season, aged only 14 John Marshall shows plenty of promise and I feel sure we will be hearing more of him in the future. He also has the benefit of his father being an ex-player himself and therefore keenly interested in helping him improve.

DIVISION 4B. By Jack Lambert

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Bootle Y.M.	12	11	1	0	103
Odyssey	12	12	0	0	97
Police 'B'	12	8	3	1	76
St. Edward's 'A'	12	6	5	1	62
Mossley Hill 'A'	11	6	4	1	56
Bath St. 'C'	10	5	5	2	44
Police 'D'	10	3	5	2	41
University 'B' ..	9	4	4	1	39
Orrell 'A'	11	1	9	1	34
Knotty Ash 'A'	11	2	9	0	31
Eng. Elec. 'F'	11	0	10	1	26

This is a very sparse month for match reports, but as we are so short of matches in the division perhaps it is not so surprising. I certainly think the management should note the situation for future reference and action.

Mossley Hill met the two title contenders with O'Sullivan coming out with flying colours, beating Rigby and Wright in his side's 6-4 defeat by Odyssey, whose saviour was Pardy with a welcome double; Pratt also pulled out his best form by joining O'Sullivan in his side's two sets against Bootle Y.M. With the lower hall very reminiscent of the old Stanley Road hut days with youngsters playing everywhere. It would be nice to think that this very good Bootle Y.M. team with a nucleus of old Y.M. players would be the basis on which the Bootle club could return to their former glories.

As I rarely give the male species their christian names I do not know where Theo Kelly came from, it should have been Phil Kelly of St. Edward's in the last "Digest" who with Smith T.

scored doubles over Police 'D' in their 8-2 win. G. Wright beating O'Hagan and Kelly 18 and 19 respectively in the third was mainly responsible for an excellent draw by the Orrell side with St. Edward's (Thomas 2). (I accept this rebuke and offer my apologies to Phil for this slip of the fingers—Editor).

Two draws by Bath St. The first against English Elec. which gave the East Lancs. side their first success, thanks to Halketd and Jones G. Their second draw was against Police 'D' (Robinson 2) with Letch and Wadkin scoring four of the five points.

The leading players at the halfway stage were all from the top clubs: Christie (Bootle Y.M.) and McLeod (Police 'B') lead the way having only dropped one set each at the time of writing. They are closely followed by Rigby, Wright and Weston (Odyssey) and Ball and Whorton (Bootle Y.M.). Also having an excellent season are Liu (University), Kelly (St. Edward's), Godby (Mossley Hill) and Jeffrey (Police 'B').

DIVISION 5A. By Keith Hufferdine

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
W'loo Park 'B'	14	11	0	3	101
Sandforth 'A'	14	10	4	0	93
Sandforth	12	9	2	1	91
Bootle Y.M. 'A'	13	8	3	2	87
Police 'E'	15	8	7	0	72
Palatine	10	6	3	1	60
Maghull 'A'	12	6	5	1	59
Cadwa 'B'	11	5	6	0	52
Vagabonds 'A'	11	2	9	0	42
LYVA 'A'	12	3	9	0	42
S. Kath's	7	4	3	0	36
Trinity 'B'	11	1	10	0	24
Mossley Hill	10	0	10	0	8

Before we get down to considering match details, we are going to grouse about a few things. It has been brought to our notice several times—and we have found this in some of our games for S. Kath's College—that at least one person of the opposing team has turned up late (i.e. after 8 p.m.) This would not be so annoying if the teams concerned would be so kind as to let their opponents know beforehand, which is really only a matter of courtesy. Otherwise the teams are contravening league rules as well as making it difficult for the captain of the offending side who has to decide whether or not he should claim the sets. This is also unfair to teams who really make the

effort to get the match started by 7.30 and have to wait until 8 o'clock before the other team arrives.

Although there have been several references in the "Digest" already to matches being conceded, it has happened yet again and strangely enough it is Bootle Y.M. who have "received" another 10 points from Maghull 'A'. We wondered why this should happen, and we are sure that the other teams at the top will be thinking the same. We will be glad to assist the latter in lynching the next team that concedes 10 points to Bootle, since this could effectively hand promotion to them on a plate, as it could to any of the top sides.

At the time of writing it appears that Sandforth and Waterloo Park 'B' are still running neck and neck for the title and promotion. Bootle Y.M. and Sandforth 'A' are close behind, although Bootle's most recent results indicate that they are the more consistent team of the two. They played against each other just before Xmas with Bootle winning a very close match 6-4. Any of these four teams could still go up. It is interesting to note that Sandforth, having been under the pressure of being the top team, have again lost to a close rival. This time it was Waterloo Park who won 7-3, with D. Olsen and A. Delamere both winning their sets. It would not be such a great surprise now, as it would have been earlier in the season, if Sandforth are not promoted.

Cadwa 'A' are doing much better now, having won their last three matches, two against S. Kath's and the other against Police 'F'. All the clubs in the division's mid-section, with perhaps the exception of Palatine, who can possibly get into the promotion battle, seem to be of a very similar standard. They are all capable of beating one another. Even now it is not too late for any of these (except Palatine) to have a fantastic winning streak and overtake the leaders, since Sandforth, Bootle and Waterloo Park have averaged 7 sets or more per match ever since the season began.

With a final plea to all teams and all players to turn up on time, we conclude these notes.

WOMEN'S DIVISION.

	By Joyce Randall				
	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Crawford's	9	8	1	0	73
Rafters	7	6	1	0	58
Cadwa	8	5	3	0	57
L'pool Y.M.	6	6	0	0	48
Colonsay	7	3	4	0	35
Crawford's 'A'	7	3	4	0	35
Colonsay 'A'	9	2	7	0	16
Linnets	6	1	5	0	12
Vagabonds	8	0	8	0	6

By the time you receive your copy of the "Digest" I hope you will all be very much aware of the Handicap Tournament. Your club secretary will receive a form, all you have to do is put your name down and give in 2/6d. each player. The form will be returned to me together with remittance. You will then be notified where and when you are required to play, also what your individual handicap will be. It is no easy task to handicap people, but I can promise you it will be as fair as possible and supervised by Eddie Cameron.

If this Tournament is a success and you request a repeat next season, there will be this year's games to study. The winner this time shouldn't win it next time, and so on. If everything goes as it should one of our UNKNOWN players will win. So to those of you who are wondering if its worth your while to bother, worried, because you think you aren't very good, I say yes, it is worth your while. This event is meant for *you*. You might take home a lovely silver cup—as I did once.

Our Editor certainly had a go at the ladies in the last issue. 'Wake up, ladies'. Well, why aren't you interested in the extra matches? Is it because you can't be bothered? Or are you too tied up in the mixed teams? Or could it be you feel that these sort of arrangements should have been dealt with before the season started when it was known how many teams were to form the division. Why don't some of you, or better still, all of you write to Ken Armson and tell him what you think.

The Cup Finals have been arranged as follows:

Crawford's v. Crawford's 'A' at Rafters
—Tuesday, 11th March.

Cadwa v. YMCA at Crawford's
—Monday, 10th March.

HOFFMAN "CAPTION" COMPETITION

The 4 winners of the caption competition are given below and each will receive a prize of one dozen 'Schildkrot' 3 Star Balls, Value 25/-.

Our advertiser, Louis Hoffman, was pleased with the high standard of the entries received. The January winner was selected by the Editorial Board and the remaining three by Louis Hoffman.

Winners. A. Hay (Maghull B.L.), K. Fitzsimmons (Knotty Ash),
J. Hankin (Colonsay), S. Draper (Maghull B.L.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

How would you like to finish 8th in your division and be relegated? If Bootle Y.M. were Sparta, what would they think? When we reformed division 2 we decided that the top eight clubs in each existing 2nd division merited the new 2nd division status in preference to the two teams finishing top of 3A and 3B. As previously explained we exchanged the promoted and relegated clubs positions, filled up vacancies, formed the new Division 2 and in sequence the following divisions.

Net Cord and all the rest of the sympathisers can jump in a lake, we exercised our judgment, we think, correctly. If you don't like it by all means say so and if you feel strongly vote us out of office!

EDDIE CAMERON,
Hon. Fixture Secretary.

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