

# TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

Official Magazine of the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League.

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# TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

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## COMMENT

With the 25th anniversary of the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League hard upon us, it is perhaps appropriate that an official magazine should make its appearance, and in presenting "Table Tennis Digest" to you, we feel that we are meeting a long felt want.

Let us emphasise right away that this is your magazine; it is published to perform a service for you and, although we know we shall have our teething troubles for maybe a month or two - no new venture ever escaped them - we hope that you will find some approval for our endeavours.

It will be our whole policy to cater for the members of our League. We have a team of competent writers with an intimate knowledge of their subject, who will cover the activities of all the divisions, as well as other contributors who will deal from time to time with various aspects of the game which we consider will be of interest to our members and readers.

You can also make the "Digest" the medium of any suggestion and criticisms regarding the game - and the League, if you wish - which you may have in mind. Your letters will be welcome, but may we appeal to all intending contributors to be brief and to the point, if critical be constructive and not just carping. Write to the address given above, but all letters must bear the writer's name and club, for publication. Anonymous letters will not be used, for we feel that all should have the courage of their convictions.

# Messages To The Digest

*The President (Mr. C. E. Bartholomew) writes:-*

In deciding to produce a Magazine dealing with up-to-date information regarding our own particular sport, the Management Committee of the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League realised that not only its members, but also many prospective readers who play and are interested in the game, would be grateful for a detailed and authoritative account of what is taking place; and as it will deal mainly with local news, it should fill a long felt gap and should provide news of interest to all concerned.



“ Knowledge ” is the first essential for anyone who participates in any sport, if he or she is desirous of making a success of it; and I feel sure this new venture will play its part in supplying that knowledge with satisfaction to all connected with the League, in addition to combining much of interest to the general public; and I sincerely wish the Secretary and Editors, and all concerned in producing this

new publication, the success which I am certain they will attain.

*The Chairman (Mr. D. Foulis) writes -*

This first issue of the magazine is an important landmark in the growth of our League. The dissemination of up-to-date information is an essential factor in the successful running of any organisation and the magazine is an ideal way of achieving this object within the League.

Your Committee has spent many long hours during the summer in laying the foundation for a busy and interesting winter's programme and many people will have to devote long hours of overtime (unpaid) to bring this magazine to you each month. All we ask is that you play your part by :-



Always being present when called on to play;

Turning out in proper kit;

Supporting the special functions organised for you - especially the Open Merseyside - and, last and by no means least, Observing fully the rules of the League and the game. ... ..

Which inevitably brings me to the Service Rule!

I played most of my table tennis in the good (bad?) old days of finger-spin. I can confirm that it was highly disconcerting to fail to return five

services in succession against a freak finger-spin merchant.

He's had his day and the onus is now on you to show that you are not using finger or hand spin.

# Champions Will Be Seen At Merseyside

By W. Stamp



You will find within these pages each month, up to date League tables of the 16 Divisions by Mr F. R. Moore, and reports of the Lancashire League matches by Mr. F. J. Farrell, in addition to first-hand information of what is happening in each Division and Region. I will keep you informed of various other activities that will be taking place.

I can think of no better way of commencing these notes than by extending a very cordial welcome to the following 17 Clubs who have joined us this season, expressing the hope that they will be with us for many years. Bath Street, C.A.D.W.A., Deaf Institute, Gordon Institute Old Boys, Littlewoods, Nabuk, Port Sunlight, Prenton Methodists, R.A.F. Assn. (L'pool), R.A.F. Assn. (B'head), R.A.F. West Kirby, St. Aloysius, Thorndale, Y.M.C.A. and Ashville, Greasby and Woodchurch.

## TWINS' VISIT.

We celebrate our 25th Anniversary during the season and our first big event is the Merseyside Open Championships, which since its inception in 1930, has attracted the finest exponents of the game. Last year for instance, competitors came to join our local players from London, Birmingham, Yorkshire, Edinburgh, Belfast, Portrush, Cardiff, Swansea, Gloucester, and Bristol, together with Bengt Grive, from Sweden.

We had the Surrey team who were playing at Oldham on the Friday evening, and this year, Middlesex will be playing Lancashire at Blackpool on November 24th, and will travel to the Merseyside on the 25th. Middlesex are the County Champions for the past two seasons and are led by the incomparable Victor Barna, and their

team will probably include Groff: Harrower and the 17-year-old Rowe twins (Diana & Rosalind), who upset many calculations by deservedly winning the English Doubles Championship at Wembley last March, and who have just returned from a tour of France and Belgium.

I am hoping to arrange for the French team to participate, but this is dependent on whether they can be persuaded to come to England a couple of days earlier than the international match at Birmingham on November 27th. The English Open Championships begin on Tuesday, November 28th, and many of our leading internationals will travel to Liverpool for a final tune up. JOHNNY LEACH is definitely coming to defend his singles title and will partner Jack Carrington in the doubles.

The preliminary rounds have been played for the past few years at the Gordon Institute, but we have realised that a change would have to take place to obviate tables being in two rooms and the consequent waste of time, particularly on the Saturday, when all play has to be completed, and the finals transferred to the Philharmonic Hall. We have never cancelled any event and always been on time with the finals, but only the officials running the tournament know how very near to disaster we have been on occasion.

## FINE AMENITIES

We have been successful in obtaining the Drill Hall and T.A. Centre, Mather Avenue, Allerton, where the amenities are all that could be desired, with all tables in the main hall.

Entry forms are in the hands of your Club Secretary. To assist

(Continued on Page 13)

# Manners Maketh Man

By "Calchas"

There is no truer saying than that "Manners maketh the man," and I would like to point out that it covers Table Tennis players not only on the table but off it.

During last season I saw many examples among our young male players that led me to believe that many of them did not realise that the way they behaved on the table was the only clue many people had to their personality and character.

As one who has the best interests of Liverpool table tennis at heart, I was at times disgusted and ashamed at some of the actions I witnessed, and would remind our young players that they have not only their own name to consider but also that of the league they represent.

## Unfortunate Remark

At one representative match with the spectators fairly close to the table, one of our players on losing a point, came out with a remark that made me think he must be practising his vocabulary for when he had to do his military service. In fairness to him I do not suppose he meant it to be heard, but that it was heard by a large number of the spectators was most unfortunate.

In the second half of this same match another of our youngsters, having seen his opponent beaten earlier, went on and treated his opponent with contempt, most obviously playing down to him. Rank bad manners—but justice was served for he got a bit too low down and lost in the third game a match he could easily have won two straight.

Whilst on this matter of contempt I would also like to draw attention to the fact that the first point is of equal value to any other during the course of the game, and that this increasing habit of playing half the game wrapped up in numerous thick pullovers is not only discourteous to your opponent but stupid.

I know all the tales about getting warmed up, but surely that is what a knock-up is for, and only to get down to the job after losing the first set seems to me to be making a great deal of unnecessary work.

I understand that in one of the early rounds of the Men's Singles in the last Closed Championships one young player was repeatedly serving foul services. When it was mentioned to him later by a spectator he replied that he knew, but he would continue to do it as long as he could get away with it with the umpires. Such an attitude should surely be stamped out, for it is not merely bad manners but plain cheating.

In conclusion, I would ask our young players not only to watch Barna and Leach for strokes but also to copy their "table manners," for these two great players have been champions in both play and manners.

## GOT YOUR BADGE

The new LEAGUE BADGES in red, are now available, stud or brooch type, price 1/-. Order through your Club Secretary and state which type required.

# Look!

## Modern Table Tennis by JACK CARRINGTON

Trainer of the 1949 World  
Champion, Johnny Leach.

This book contains all that the aspiring championship player wishes to know. The author, himself a player of international repute, has set out simply and carefully, a complete course of scientific table tennis instruction. It will start the beginner on the right lines and the experienced player will improve his game immensely. Fully illustrated with diagrams and action photographs.

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You can get this book from your local bookshop. If it is not in stock give the title, author, price and publisher to your bookseller, who will be glad to get a copy for you.

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# Season Opens With Cheshire Double

The 1950-51 season has at last got under way. As I write, the results of the first matches have just come in, and if they are examples of what we may expect during the season, then a very interesting one may be anticipated.

By virtue of their very convincing win over Oakhill in their first match, Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. assume the position of League leaders for the opening week of the season. With the welcome return of Ken Davenport and J. Turnbull (two of the "old uns"), they are hoping for a very successful season.

Their win over Oakhill required more effort than the score (9-1) indicates, and I do not think that Oakhill, who are relying upon the same team which gained them promotion, with the exception that J. Dancaster replaces R. Boyle, will be unduly perturbed over this reversal on returning to Division I.

## RAFTERS BEATEN

Homecroft also won their first match, defeating Rafters 6-4 at Wallasey. The victory of Roy Jones over R. Grayson (ex-St. Helens) 22-20 in the third game, after being down 20-15, was the deciding factor. Rafters might consider themselves unfortunate; that having already lost the services of Ronnie Ramjahn, due to studies, they were also deprived of A. Linforth, due to a leg injury received while playing football. Pinky May, who deputised, found Wiseman and Brown, just too strong for her.

Last season's champions, 15th Crosby Scouts, started with an away win over African Oil, and can thank Joe Delamere for the extra point, his win over D. Glass being the deciding factor. Having lost R. E. Roberts, and with B. Hand due to joint H.M. Forces in the near future, they will find it hard to maintain their high position.

African Oil, weakened through the loss of several club players and still without the services of Bill Pierce (in Malta with the R.A.F.), are not expecting any honours, and will be satisfied if they can hold their own.

This season Rafters club have changed their teams over, and E.

Caird captains the first team and E. Rumjahn the "A" team. The "A" team visited Balfour, and found that getting points is still as difficult as ever. The sting in Balfour's tail proved too strong, and Rafters went down 7-3. There were several good sets, the closest being that between L. Davies and Teddy Rumjahn, the latter eventually winning 22-20 in the third game.

The other newcomers to the division, Balfour "A", visited Anfield for their debut, and at the halfway must have been feeling pleased with themselves, with a lead of four games to one. But Anfield were not inclined to let the points slip away so easily, and the next four games saw a complete reversal, giving Anfield the lead at 5-4. But A. Miller came to the rescue and saved a point for Balfour.

Anfield, with the return of Stan Lodd to their team and the worries over headquarters removed, are hoping for a better season than last.

## ROSE BOWL 1949-50

Here is the record of the Liverpool Women's great effort in the Rose Bowl competition last season.

1st	— v. Sheffield (H)	Won 7-0
2nd	— v. Manchester (H)	Won 5-3
3rd	— v. Blackpool (H)	Won 5-4
4th	— v. N'umberland(H)	Won 6-3
5th	— v. Grimsby (A)	Won 8-1
Semi-final	v. Brighton	Won 7-2
Final	v. West London	Lost 1-8

The semi-final and final were played at Southampton

### AVERAGES.

	P	W	L
K. May	13	9	4
E. Mansell	14	9	5
L. May	14	9	5
<hr/>			
E. Mansell & K. May	7	6	1
E. Mansell & L. May	6	4	2
K. & L. May	6	2	4

# Promotion Battle Will Be Keen

At first sight it appears as though the teams in the Second Division are very evenly matched this year, and I am sure there will be many interesting games during the season. The summaries below may help towards assessing their relative strengths, and without becoming a bookmaker on the subject, I should think that Acacia, Bibby's, Bootle Y.M.C.A. and the Liverpool Police should finish in the top half of the table.

Acacia, perhaps better known as the Ministry of Supply, but under new management, are still led by penholder Egerton but some new acquisitions have strengthened the tailenders.

Aigburth have lost a number of players, with the result that last year's No. 5 is now playing No. 1. This does not mean a second team is being fielded as there did not appear any great difference between any of them in the game against Acacia in their first match.

## BIBBY'S YEAR

Anfield "A" are slightly strengthened from last year. Their first week's draw with Homecroft "A" shows they are not going to be easily beaten. Bibby's have lost one Smith, but secretary Smith is still performing. Again a strong team with good reserves, and who knows this may be their year.

Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. "A" do not appear as strong as last year, but they have already collected more points than in the whole of last season in the First Division, and should get their share throughout the season. Bootle Y.M.C.A. is a young team, with "keenness" as their second name. Many have been coached during the close season, and I am sure they are anxious for promotion after only two years in the League.

"Homecroft "A" is where Birkenhead's loss should show dividends.

Tipped in one quarter for the championship, I.C.I. are the sort of team who play for the love of the game. I am told they will not be holding the division up this season, nor do I think they will be claiming medals.

Liverpool Police are still led by Hough, Heague and Crafter, but I hear there are two or three recruits who are

quickly learning to handle a table tennis bat. Oakhill "A" have finished fourth each year since leaving the First Division two years ago. By all accounts they should do better this year, especially if their strongest team plays regularly.

In case you have not heard, I am the League's national magazine secretary. Do not allow the local news in this publication to deter you from reading national and world news in the E.T.T.A.'s official magazine "Table Tennis."

## HYDE CUP DRAW

### FIRST ROUND

Oakhill 'C' v. Anfield 'B'  
 Liverpool Y.M. v. Bath Street  
 Aigburth Meths. v. Hoylake M.M. 'A'  
 Bootle Y.M. 'A' v. Cheshire Lines 'A'  
 Liverpool Y.M. 'A' v. Atrican Oil 'A'  
 Westfield 'A' v. St. Bartholomews  
 R.A.F.A. (Birk.) v. Waterloo Park  
 Bohemians 'B' v. Mossley Hill  
 Hamilton 'M' v. Deaf Institute  
 St. Peters M.C. v. Aigburth 'C'  
 Elm Hall Drive v. Burrowdale 'A'  
 Bronze Sports v. St Michaels 'A'  
 Bohemians 'C' v. English Electric  
 Neston G.B. v. Thingwall  
 Technical Students v. Cosco  
 F. Sunlight 'A' v. Thorndale  
 Waterloo Dk 'A' v. Kingsway 'A'  
 Y.W.C.A. v. Bohemians 'A'  
 Brenka v. Burlington  
 F. Sunlight v. Osterley 'A'  
 Claremont 'A' v. Edwardians 'A'  
 Wavertree C.C. 'A' v. Burrowdale  
 Balfour 'C' v. Cadwa  
 Balfour 'D' v. Taxes  
 Thingwall 'A' v. Dunlop 'A'  
 Burrowdale 'B' v. Thorndale 'A'  
 Aigburth 'B' v. Cosco 'A'  
 Lucem 'A' v. Gordon Institute  
 Claremont v. Victoria Park 'A'  
 B'head Co-op. v. Wallasey Y.M.Jrs. 'B'  
 Lucem v. Birkenhead Y.M. Jrs.  
 Wallasey Y.M. Jrs. 'A' v. Linacre M.C.  
 Osterley v. Cadwa 'A'  
 East Wavertree v. Claremont 'B'  
 Vernons v. Birkenhead Y.M.Jrs. 'A'  
 St. Josephs Birk. 'A' v. Cheshire  
 Lines 'B'  
 Thorndale 'B' v. St. Josephs B'head  
 Wavertree C.C. 'B' v. R.A.F. (W.Kir.)  
 Eye; Roby Y.C.



## They May Be "Juniors" But Take Care

There will be many new faces in this year's Third Division, only four of last season's teams remaining, and the balance being made up of three promoted teams from the Fourth Division, one down from the Second and two coming straight through from Regional status.

For the majority of us we can look forward to two trips "Over the water," but for our Wirral companions it means eight trips to Liverpool, with a none-too-near local "derby." A hearty welcome, however, to all, and with another excellent playing season in prospect we wish every club the best of luck.

As one of the monthly features of these notes, I propose to give you a write-up of one or two of our divisions' teams, and this month we start off with Wallasey Y.M.C.A. Juniors.

### SENIORS BARRED

Wallasey are in effect a nursery to Homecroft, and share the Y.M.C.A. building, although being independent enough to proclaim "No admittance to 'seniors' on the door of their own private table tennis room. For the majority of the Juniors' team this is only their second season in the League, but a word of warning—do not think this word "juniors" indicates a team that is still in the elementary stage in a playing sense. If you do you will be in for a shock. They are, however, a young team, the average age being 16, which, of course, means that when the majority of us are leaden-footed in a gruelling third game the Wallasey boys are as sprightly as ever.

There are not only boys however, for one of the stars in this team is a young lady, Andree Jones (we cannot figure out how a lady appears in a Y.M.C.A.). Andree needs no introduction. You all remember her rise to fame.

Other members are Bill Stredder (age 16), Ian Tunstall (the old man of the team, age 18), Gordon Exell (age 15), and Paul Ambler (age 16). Gordon cannot be much, if any, more than 5ft., and he will give you a most apologetic grin as he slams a left-hand drive down your backhand, but don't under-

estimate him, for despite height and age, he will slam them down.

With the experience these lads are now gaining, do not be surprised if their names appear on the Liverpool team sheets, for it is such ~~good~~ youngsters as these who will be the stars of to-morrow.

We notice our clubs have enjoyed the luck of the draw in the Readman Cup, and we will demand a full explanation for any who fail to be represented in the next round.

## PEN PERSONALITIES

### Mrs. EDNA MOORE

How Mr. Frank Moore, the League's Fixture Secretary and registrar, would cope with all the work his position entails with the help of his wife Edna, is something he dare not consider. Mrs. Moore is one of the League's best "backroom" girls, for in addition to helping Frank, she is one of the mainsprings of her club, Oakhill, of which she has been a member for many years.

A petite brunette, she is equally efficient at the table as she is in administration, as many of her opponents know to their cost.

But even table tennis does not absorb all her energy, for she is a keen walker and climber, and is still going strong when Frank begins to show signs of distress.

### KEN JONES

The Bohemians are fast regaining the reputation they had pre-war and the man chiefly responsible for it is their Secretary, Ken Jones. He came to the "Bohs" from Fairtown chiefly for lawn tennis, but he quickly got busy and inculcated a keenness for the winter sport with the members.

Ken used to be an all-out attacking player, until he met Richard Bergman during his service in Austria, with the Army, and it was the latter's influence that caused him to rely mainly on defence. Now, however, he has decided to combine attack with defence, and if he can do it successfully he should prove difficult to beat.

## New Appearance But Tradition Remains

The new season will see the Fourth Division very much changed from the one which finished last spring, only three teams (Aigburth "A", Holme Hey and Port Sunlight Old Boys) who played in this division last season, remain for another year.

Newcomers include last season's unbeaten West Region champions, Kingsway, and the "B" team from the Balfour Club. These should prove their worth in the higher division, and may be fighting one another for leadership.

St. Michael's and Cheshire Lines enter the division after a successful time in the South Region last winter. They will probably field more or less the same sides as last season, though I hear St. Michael's have lost their No. 1, Ernie Owens, who has joined H.M. Forces.

### OPENING "DERBY"

The first week produced a "Derby" between Cheshire Lines and Dunlop at Alerton, always a keen tussle between two evenly-matched teams. Both had players who represented the South Region last season, including C. Davies, of Dunlop, last season's Men's Regional Singles winner. This game was a victory to the Cheshire Lines side by six sets to four.

Balfour "B" commenced the season with Holme Hey as visitors. This was expected to be a hard match, but with Holme Hey lacking the services of their regular Nos. 2 and 3, L. Hunter and J. King, the home side were easy winners by eight sets to two. The highlight was the battle between the Balfour No. 2, the steady left-handed Norman Huyton and Holme Hey's hard-hitting No. 1, Eric Wall. Huyton, after losing the first game and being behind in the second, fought back well to win the decider 21-11. This Balfour player certainly would not disgrace himself in a stronger division.

Waterloo Dock entertained Kingsway, worthy winners of the Hyde and Forrest Cups last season, and they have commenced this one where they left off last April, and won this match by eight sets to two. The Waterloo Dock No. 1, J. C. Seddon, who played for the North Region last winter, won the only two sets for the Railwaymen, beating

S. J. Railton 21-13 21-19 and M. Williams 21-15 20-22 21-17. Both clubs fielded practically the same sides as last season.

Port Sunlight Old Boys having to play all matches on their opponents' tables, had to begin by crossing the Mersey to play Aigburth "A." Their journey, however, was certainly worth while, for they were easy winners by eight sets to two. Aigburth are missing a number of last-season's players, and their very capable secretary, Mrs. Sturgeon, seems to be having a very worrying time in having to field six teams each week.

On the whole, however, the division does not seem as strong as last season, though I am glad to say the interest and enthusiasm is as good as ever.

## MERSEYSIDE OPEN LATE FLASH

Just as we go to press, Mr. W. Stamp, the League Secretary, has received definite word about the Middlesex players who will be at the

The whole team is coming, which means that Victor Barna, Geoff Harrower, Bernard Crouch, Miss Joyce Roberts, and the Rowe twins will be competing.

The present holders of the various championships will have to go some to retain their titles, more especially in the women's events.

## TEN BEST RECORDS

	P	W	L	Pts
F. Bamford (15th Cros.)	44	43	1	97 72
J. Seddon (Waterloo Dk.)	44	43	1	97 72
Miss L. May (Raffers)	44	43	1	97 72
H. Vaughan (Hoy Y.M.)	40	38	2	95 00
Miss E. Banks (H'croft)	26	24	2	92 30
W. Pierce (African Oil)	24	22	2	91 66
Miss K. May (Raffers)	46	42	4	91 30
R. McManus (Elec. Sup)	44	40	4	90 90
E. Davies (Dunlop)	32	29	3	90 62
R. Wason (Brabys)	36	32	4	88 88

Compiled from Cup and League games but not including teams below Regional First Divisions or Youths. Women's records taken from Women's Divisions only.

## Bright Prospects For New Season

By F. J. Farrell,  
Match Secretary.

It is highly probable that few local players have any idea of what the Lancashire and Cheshire Table Tennis League is or know anything about it. Occasionally, they hear that Liverpool are playing Manchester, Bolton or some other town, but there the matter ends.

This was due in no small measure to publicity difficulties. Now we have our own magazine, it will be possible not only to announce these matches as they arise, but also to follow the fortunes of our teams throughout the season.

The Lancashire League has grown to a formidable size, this season comprising ten divisions of six teams each. It is sponsored jointly by the Lancashire and Cheshire Associations, and obtains its present form due to the proximity of the populated districts of the two counties.

### LOCAL SUCCESSES

The Liverpool teams have met with a fair measure of success since the war, the League holding four shields, awarded for topping the various divisions in which our teams have competed. Their performances last season are worthy of note. The first team, ulaying in Division I., finished one point behind the champions, Bolton, in spite of losing the services of Pierce (Forces) and Hand (illness) for the last two matches.

The "B" team, after tying for top place with Crewe, beat them in a play-off, and so became champions of their division. The women's team also played well in reaching the final of the Rose Bowl competition before bowing to West London.

In subsequent issues it is hoped to give a brief report, with the results, of the matches, and to announce the matches and venues for the following month, and so create interest in them and improve the attendances.

There are over 1,000 registered players, and there are five home matches for the first team. If all of you attend only one match per season that means an average gate of 200. What about it? The management committee are doing their bit by staging

the matches so it is up to you. The players won't let you down.

## A WORD ABOUT CLOTHES

By Moya.

This is not the most diplomatic of articles to appear in our first magazine, but coming as it does at the beginning of another season I think it is a good time for a complaint and some suggestions.

There seems no reason why a pair of shorts or short skirt cannot be kept for table tennis. It would save other clothes from becoming soiled and loosing their smartness. However old the shorts or skirt may be, a press with a hot iron can mean a great improvement.

Perhaps you are saying your clothes are always pressed before you put them in your bag. In that case why not take more care when folding pleats and tucking in collar points to prevent three or four creases spoiling the look of your outfit.

Many clubs nowadays have their own colours, in which case, whenever possible, wear those colours for matches. The businesslike appearance of a team can mean a good deal, but this is not achieved if all the colours of the rainbow are worn.

One last moan about clothes, and to which I am ashamed to plead guilty - that of clean pumps. It is surprising the various shades of grey that white pumps assume as the date of their last whitening recedes further and further away.

An untidy habit which is so unnecessary, is that of strap hitching. If you do not possess those handy fasteners that clip shoulder straps to the seams of your blouse, link them together across your shoulders with a loose piece of ribbon or fine elastic. But make sure it is loose or you will find it cutting into your skin.

# They Made Table Tennis History



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When Liverpool and West London Ladies met in the final of the National Rose Bowl towards the end of last season, it was not only the first time that a Liverpool team had reached that point but it was the first time that there were twins in each team. Here are the four who made history, and in case you have difficulty in identifying them, as we had, they are (from left), Diana and Rosalind Rowe, of West London, and our own Pinky and Bluey May. Pity the poor umpire if the four should meet during the Merseyside Open.

Women's Divisions.

By Margaret Lindner

## *Divisions Set Up New Record*

Never has Autumn and table tennis along with other indoor sport, been so welcome, after such a disappointing summer, when tennis enthusiasts had to spend precious time gazing at flooded courts or dashing in and out of the pavilion dodging the rain. Is it any wonder table tennis is becoming more and more popular?

Two hundred registered women players, including two sets of twins, certainly a record for Merseyside, and I am sure not many other leagues can boast two sets of twins. I wonder if the Wilkinson twins, Amy and Betty, who were in our coaching scheme this summer, will follow in the footsteps of

the May twins, and play for their City and County, or, to be more ambitious still, those of the Rowe twins, who though only 17 years of age, are already well-travelled internationals.

Welcome to new clubs, Littlewoods Osterley, and St. Joseph's (Birkenhead), and all new members, not forgetting our old friends Balfour, who have again entered a women's team. Did some wag say: "It looks as if it will be another neck and neck between Balfour and their old rivals Rafterts for the League and Cup Championships".

Oakhill, runners-up to Rafterts in last year's Cup Championship, are full of optimism, though their side is con-

siderably weakened, having lost three of their strongest players—Ivy Crafter to Cadwa, Jenny Roberts (now resident at Hoylake) to Acacia, and Joan Sephton, who is, I believe, busy stitching curtains, etc., for her new home. I regret to hear that Nelta, always a strong adversary, have had to resign, but have no doubt that Lil Robinson and Ann Allen (last year's regional singles winner) will give a good account of themselves with their new club Balfour.

Best wishes to Anfield on their promotion to the First Division, having won the Second Division championship last season. Their success is due in no small part to their enthusiasm and that of their captain and mentor, one of Liverpool's Peter Pans of Table Tennis, Mrs. Womphrey. With the glint of battle in their eyes, they are now ready to tackle more formidable opposition.

Congratulations to Andree Jones, who has been selected to play for Cheshire, together with Eileen Grimstone (Stockport) and Dorothy Banks (Crewe). Andree fully justifies her selection, by her splendid playing record last season. Being at Skegness for a week of special coaching awarded her by the Daily Mirror, Andree was able to compete in the East of England Tournament last month, but was unfortunate to meet Phyllis Lammin, who is a very difficult player to beat. (Mrs. Lammin played for Grimsby against our girls in a Rose Bowl match at Aigburth last year).

### NO SURPRISES.

The season's first matches brought no surprise results, but as many players have only just been able to get into training after the summer break, it is likely to be some time before they get back into form.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal for your support at the Merseyside Open Tournament, Inter-City and Rose Bowl matches. It is very encouraging to both the home and away teams, who often have to travel a long distance, to be welcomed by an enthusiastic gallery. I can assure that your evening will not be wasted. Women's matches nowadays, are not the pushing and chiselling endurance tests of pre-war days, but are often up to the standard of the men's matches.

Liverpool has yet to bring home the Rose Bowl. I had the great pleasure of travelling to Southampton with the

Liverpool team last season, and what a grand week-end it was. Never were football Cup finalists so royally treated, both by the officials of the Southampton League, who received well merited praise, and members of the E.T.T.A., N.E.C.

Although we lost in the final to the very charming West London team, who were worthy winners, we did not feel disgraced, and almost our last words to Mr Pope when he was bidding us good-bye on Southampton Station were, "We shall return next season to take the Rose Bowl back North". Optimistic perhaps, but what about you doing your share by giving us the talent and your support?

Many of their many friends will be pleased to hear that Mrs Eileen Jackson (Dake) and her young son have arrived back from Johannesburg, after a six months' holiday at her mother's home, just in time to celebrate sister Win's engagement. Win is also expected home in the not too distant future, so we shall have an opportunity of offering her in person our best wishes.

Here's wishing you all a very happy and successful table tennis season.

## North of England Championships

The North of England Open takes place at the Drill Hall, Stretford Road, Manchester, on Saturday, November 11th, and forms may be obtained from the League Secretary, closing date, October 28th.

A motor coach will leave St. John's Lane, at 10-30 a.m. (the tournament commences at 12 noon), inclusive fare 8/6d. Competitors or spectators wishing to travel, should apply to Mr. Stamp, enclosing remittance.

## Dates to Remember

NOV. 2-4	Birmingham Open.
NOV. 9-11	North of England Open.
NOV. 22-25	Merseyside Open.
JAN. 18-20	Lancashire Open.
FEB. 9	England v. Ireland. at Liverpool.

# Anniversary Year should be the Best

By Frank Moore

Registrar and Fixture Secretary

When 25 years ago the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League was born, even the most optimistic of its founders could scarcely have imagined the extent to which it would grow.

Not even the war years, with all their difficulties, stopped its activities, although they seriously curtailed them. But since the return of peace, the League has gone from strength to strength.

When in that first post-war season of 1945-46, table tennis began to find its feet again, we had 32 Clubs and 48 Teams, making up five divisions, including a West Regions Division and Women's Division. Of the teams that comprised the First Division, only two had retained their status throughout - Rafter's and 15th Crosby Scouts.

## OLD FRIENDS RETURN.

The next season, the League's 21st, saw us double the number of divisions, with 97 teams from 54 clubs. The year also saw the return of some well known names - Balfour, Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. Homecroft and Domestic Mission, as well as the formation of a second Women's Division.

But more was to follow, for the 1947-48 season added three more divisions, with the number of clubs jumping to 72, and the teams to 126. It saw, too, the introduction of the Youth division (Birkenhead).

Still we grew, and in 1948-49 the figures rose to 82 clubs and 153 teams "housed" in 16 divisions. The new additions were an extra division in the West Region, a Second Youth Division and an experiment in the form of a Doubles Division.

And so we come to last season's facts and figures. We still had 16 divisions, with 154 teams from 85 clubs, but a general levelling-up was becoming apparent. Teams worthy of higher spheres had fought their way up, and those not-so-good had been relegated to lower divisions or regions.

It was, however, all for the good of the game, for the season just begun holds out every promise of being our

best yet. We still have 16 divisions, but the Doubles Division has been replaced with a Fourth Division in the West Region. We have already 1,186 players and we have a new cup (the Maxwell Fyfe) for competition between the teams in the Second, Third and Fourth Divisions. It should produce many keen matches.

Now, a word to Club Secretaries. Will you please see that the score-cards are posted immediately after the matches. If you are not present, put a penny stamp on the card before giving it to the-team captain and tell him to drop it in the post box on his way home. If this is done, I will be able to keep the League Tables right up to date. And, you all want to know where you stand.

Wishing you all a most successful season.

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## New Teams Will Be Strong Contenders

Few people will regret the passing of summer because it means that once more the time has come to write yet another chapter in the history of Merseyside Table Tennis, and I am hoping that the East Region will do something extra special. For example, some enterprising member might just manage to walk off with the Merseyside Open. I said, perhaps!

This season the Region looks almost brand new. Osterley, Anfield "B." and African Oil will agree on this point, as they are the sole survivors from last year's line-up of Division I, while Division II retains Osterley "A," Roby Youth Club, and Bohemians "B." for a further season. In the past the Region has been well served by grand players, and it is to be hoped that all concerned will endeavour to carry on the good work.

### BAD START

St. Aloysius started the season badly by losing 9-1 to CADWA. It was unfortunate that one of their players failed to appear, because it helped to unsettle a team already suffering from pre-match nerves, an understandable feeling for a young team, making their first appearance in the Liverpool League.

Bill Cunningham, of CADWA, celebrated his debut in competitive table tennis by winning both games. He began rather shakily against Eddie Smith, a penholder, but once he got the measure of his opponent, nothing could stop him. He found his real form against Gerry Bradley, and, although Gerry tried hard, he just had no reply to the fast drives delivered against him.

I have seen some unorthodox table tennis in my time, but Sheila Donnaney, of Aloysius, showed me that I hadn't see everything. Her play could only be described as forceful pushing with loads of spin, and she dictated the play in her match against Sylvia Swanick, of CADWA. Sylvia, an attacking player, found that attack was useless, and settled down with commendable patience to play Sheila at her own game, meeting spin with spin. The game went to three

sets, during which time I counted no more than nine attacking shots, and I think the score of 21-19, 19-21, 19-21 in Sheila's favour just about speaks for itself.

### NELSON'S POLISH

Mrs. Crafter and Bill Hedley (Cadwa) won confidently, and the evening was completed when Ronnie Nelson gave a polished performance to defeat Johnnie Sparks (Aloysius) with a good deal in hand.

Despite the fact that they were defeated 7-3 by Bohemians "B." K.A.F. Association gave a grand exhibition. Les Donnelly and Bob Lawson are very enterprising leaders, and Les will win many matches with his service alone, which is absolutely loaded with spin. Eric Rome, Bert Monaghan, and Leslie Squire make up a nicely-balanced team.

For the Bohemians, Boy Kay was outstanding. His driving was the fiercest I have seen for some time, and the fact that it was so consistent made it all the more interesting to watch. Geoff Baker, Tommy Gee, and Cliff Barton take full marks for a continuous attack that brought its just reward.

## Secretary's Notes

(Continued from Page 3)

members, who find it inconvenient to obtain tickets for the finals from the agencies (see back cover), and to ensure our own members having the first choice of seats, cards have been sent to every Secretary for him to fill in members' requirements, particularly if they wish to effect a block booking.

We have never had the "House Full" notice at the Philharmonic, but there is no reason why this should not come to pass if our members pull their weight by persuading relatives and friends to come along with them to the finals.

Will YOU do your share to make this dream a reality. There are prices to suit all pockets. Let us see if we can "Fill the Phil."

## Shakespeare Gave Region Slogan

Greetings to all players and clubs in the West Region!

We are now in the Region's 17th season, for it was in October, 1934, that the West Region first made its bow. Are there any players, I wonder, still in the Region, who are playing in that first season?

Before weighing up the prospects for 1950-51 I want to say to all those players and clubs, whose first season in the League this is, "Glad to welcome you! Hope you will get as much enjoyment out of the League as we have done." And may I ask the "old friends" to let our new friends see that our League matches can provide pleasant social evenings, no matter how keenly-fought the games.

What of the future? I quite realise I am sticking my neck out in making prophesies so early—but I'll risk it.

In the First Division I expect to find Birkenhead Co-op. and Claremont fighting it out for the first two places, with St. Joseph's and Thorndale, provided the "Saints" and the "Dales" can get off to a good start in their first season in the premier division.

### FOUR POSSIBLES.

From the Second Division I pick four teams as possible champions or runners-up. Cosco—who, on last year's standard, deserved to finish higher than sixth; Hoylake Y.M.C.A. "A."—an improving team, who should do well this season if their senior team does not call too heavily on them for reserves; St. Joseph's "A."—one of the new teams in the Region, but my carrier-pigeon tells me that what they did recently to their own first team (last year's champions) is nobody's business—and finally Kingsway "A.," who look like being strong from No. 1 to No 5.

If I had to tip an outside chance I would name Burrowdale, who will include in their team this season Myra Sharpe, reputed to possess one of the hardest forehand drives in the division.

Thorndale "A.," Burrowdale "A." and Cosco "A." seem likely candidates for honours in the Third Division, with Port Sunlight as strong challengers. I saw one or two Port Sunlight players in action during the

close season and believe me, if their standard is anything to go by the team is going to set a hot pace in this division.

### OPEN AFFAIR.

It is a very open affair in the Fourth Division as there are so many newcomers. [The Y.M.C.A. is represented by two teams—Birkenhead Juniors "A" and Wallasey Juniors "B"—and I expect both to be near the top at the end of the season, with Thorndale "B" and Neston in close attendance. But, of course, the new teams in the division—Port Sunlight "A.," Prenton Methodist, Thingwall "A.," Y.W.C.A., and the two R.A.F. teams at Birkenhead and West Kirby, will have their own ideas on that subject, and will be eager to make me eat my words at the end of the season. Good luck to them!

Now a word about future plans. I shall do my best to keep you posted with news of what is going on in the Region month by month, but obviously with forty teams and well over 200 players it will be impossible to get round more than a fraction of the matches so I shall depend largely on club secretaries. If you haven't time to write, a 'phone message to Wallasey 5780 will do. Let's all share the news about your new table; your club tournament; the highlights of last week's match; what the club's Christmas party was like—in fact, anything you think would be of interest to your own or other clubs' members.

### HYDE CUP.

And don't confine your news to the exploits of the crack players of your club. I want the weakest player in the weakest team in the Region to feel that he (or she) has as much chance of mention in these columns as the "tigers," who will be selected for the West Regional team later in the season.

Turning to Cup-ties, the battle for the Hyde Cup opens next Monday. It may be well to remind you that in each of the past five years the West has supplied the winner, so you can bet the other Regions will be doing their darndest to take that Cup over

Continued Page 18.



## Region's Newcomers are Quietly Confident

To all North Regionaires good luck, memorable games, and lasting friendship! I was North Regional secretary 1935 to 1939, and I still retain many happy memories of the clubs and the players of that period.

I contacted some of our present club secretaries before the opening of the season and asked about their prospects. This is what they confided:—

Jack Davidson (Linacre):—"We have nine registered players and only one playing night each week. Our club members are keen and will put up hard fights".

Norman Cooke (Bath Street):—"We are a new club, but confident we shall merit the vacancy given to us. We have secured the services of Bill Kinraid (from Waterloo Park) and a supporting partner in Alec Gould. We intend to finish near the top."

### £40 TABLE

Jack Lambert (English Electric)—and old friend of mine—told me his club have purchased a new Jacques table costing £40. They have merged their East team into the North, and therefore they will give stronger resistance than last season.

Alf. Webster (Waterloo Dock):—"We have nominated a team to take the place of our promoted side, and their aim will be to reach the same degree of proficiency as their old standard bearers."

Les Perons (Burlington)—an old club colleague—said with a twinkle in his eye, that his club are out for championship honours. He has secured the signature of Bill Finney (Waterloo Park), and R. Bird (I.C.I.), who with Marnie Morrison make a formidable spearhead.

S. M. Campbell (Waterloo Park) has no such reason for optimism, having lost two good players to other clubs and one to H.M. Forces, but I found him quite happy and far from disheartened. "We will carry on and build up", was his comment. I am sure he will.

First news of battle came from Jack Lambert, who says of their match with Waterloo Dock, which they won 9-1. "Bob Russell, one of the few playing veterans of table tennis, was outstand-

ing. He took a game from English Electric's Nos. 1 and 2." Winners for English Electric were Lambert, Longstaffe, Carns, and Calder (two each) and Harris. Waterloo Dock's solitary success was from Dunn.

I went to see Bath Street v. Waterloo Park, the new club winning 7-3. It was an interesting match, producing many fine rallies, and in spite of the absence of Kinnaird (down with "flu"), Bath Street's march to victory was never really in doubt. Losing the first set, they went on to a lead 4-1, and victory was theirs at 6-2.

For the home side, A. Gould (penholder) won twice and showed himself a determined attacking player. Norman Cooke, playing No. 2, lost both sets, but they went to three games and he played attractively and enterprisingly, so that he had no cause to rebuke himself. J. Seed and E. Goodwin were also double winners, but L. Scott, who won one set, must refrain from catching the ball with the playing hand, and remember to serve within the table.

Waterloo Park winners were J. Howard, a good attacking type; E. Reed and J. Bell who played well.

Four matches were taken to three games, and there was some good attack and defensive play by both sides, but I would advise the players to vary their type of play. Many times a defender was well behind the table, yet I never saw the attacker use the half-volley.

### THIS MONTH'S STORIES

Chapter One — Petti-coats  
Chapter Two — Petty Cash  
Chapter Three — Petty Sessions

One of those enthusiastic, full-of-energy young lawn tennis players who always jump over the net to shake hands at the end of a match, took up table tennis. At the end of the first match he tried to jump the table - Result in hospital with a broken leg.

Women patient (to doctor in consulting room) "Oh, doctor, I feel so depressed. I think I could kill myself".  
Doctor (cheerfully): "Leave it to me".

## Championship Looks Very Open

It must be admitted, that in the post-war years, the South has probably been about the weakest of the four Regions, and the improved form shown in the Inter-Regional Tournament last season came as a very welcome revival.

This was mainly due to the excellent displays given by players from St. Michael's, Dunlops and Cheshire Lines, but all these clubs have moved up into more illustrious circles, and it is evident that Don Brown will again have to make a vigorous search to find players of the calibre of Gower, Davies and Dignan, among others.

It may be that the revival of Lucem, a club with great traditions, may solve a great number of the Regional Secretary's problems. They made a great start to the season by beating Aigburth Meths. 10-0, with the loss of only two games, and the nucleus of a Regional team may well be found among the members of the Radiant House side.

### MORE TWINS

It was interesting to see that Don Foulis still retains his old touch, as he won his two sets with the loss of only 35 points.

A lot of people will be watching the progress of the Wilkinson twins of Aigburth Meths., who have been marked down by shrewd judges as being of outstanding promise. The season should see them make a big advance. The Methodists, by the way, in their opening match, played four Wilkinsons—A., B., N. and S.—which must be nearly a record.

The South have again two Divisions, and the late entry of Livex "A" into the Second Division gives them a full complement. The First Division retains five of last year's members—Aigburth "B," Aigburth Meths., Elm Hall Drive, Liverpool Y.M., and Wavertree C.C. "A," while the five new members, Cheshire Lines "A," Lucem, Mossley Hill, Technical Students, and Victoria Park "A" have all been promoted from the Second Division.

The Wavertree Community side has a very efficient look, and the manner of their opening win, 10-0, with no games lost suggests they may be very near the top at the end. I feel it is more than likely that the champion-

ship will rest between Elm Hall, Lucem, Liverpool Y.M., or Wavertree C.C. "A."

It is extremely pleasant to be able to welcome old friends in Deaf Institute back to the League. They are the only first team in the Second Division which consists of six "A" teams, two "B's," and a "C."

It is quite impossible to make any guess as to how matters may go, but it is highly significant that Lucem "A" won their first match by 10-0. They did not lose a game; indeed, in the twenty games no opponent could reach further than 15 points.

Cadwa "A" are another team new to the League, and they made an encouraging start when beating Dunlop "A" 6-4. Their strength lay in the tail, who won five sets out of six.

In conclusion, may I encourage all "South Regioners" to make a big effort to maintain the improvement in play shown last year. Practice and perseverance bring their own reward in increased enjoyment and better results.

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## Three New Clubs Make Their Bow

This year we welcome three new clubs to the Youth Region—Ashville, Greasby, and Woodchurch. We hope they enjoy their League and Cup matches, for there is no doubt they will find that League games put new bite into their play.

Good play invariably brings recognition—Kelly and M'Ghee, of Rock Ferry St. Anne's, have both had official coaching, and Kelly has played for the West Region. This could happen to you!

The new service rule must be strictly enforced this season; the ball must be thrown up from the flat palm of the free hand, with the fingers straight and together, and the thumb away from the side. This is to prevent finger-spin—of course, you can spin, cut, or chop the ball however you like with the bat, but you mustn't use finger-spin.

Also, when you serve the ball it must be behind the table and between an imaginary continuation of the side lines. Try it—it's very easy; and when you're umpiring, make sure both players serve properly!

### CLUB PROSPECTS

Ashville have been practising the new service ready to enter the League, and now all their players use it naturally. Murray and Jones, their 1 and 2, have strong forehand attacks, and Jones and Graham are developing backhands. Kellett and Brennan complete the normal team, but there are good reserves in Roberts, W. Smith and Wall, who are new to the game.

W. K. Smith, No. 7 in the club, is a great fighter, who moves about so much that he seems almost exhausted by the end of a match! This is by no means a fault, however, and fighting spirit and fast footwork are essential for a good player.

At Hoylake, Youth Captain Hilton and his team have had much practice during the summer, and have drawn new players from local non-league clubs. They are lucky in having two first class tables available.

The Y.M.C.A. places much importance on the social side of table

tennis, and always looks after visiting teams well. After all, a hard match is always very friendly, and if both teams watch and encourage the players, rivalry and friendliness will increase.

I.O.G.T. and Shaftesbury have teams similar to last season, and Heswall are hoping to improve on their third in the table last year.

Birkenhead Boys' Club have two teams in the League this year, and they will all be playing in proper table tennis shirts. The team spirit has always been strong at the B.B.C., and this will make it even stronger. Ask a B.B.C. player how he got on in a match, and he will reply "We won," not "I won."

Don't miss any opportunities of seeing really good players in action this season—you can learn a lot from watching them. In your own practice aim for steadiness and long rallies—don't try backhand flicks all the time; flashy players seldom win hard games.

Peter Rumjahn, the international, writes hints in this magazine—read them and practice them! And good luck during the season!!

### ADVERTISEMENT RATES

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# New Umpire Scheme Will Help Game

By A. Montgomery

During the recent closed season the E.T.T.A. took one of its most important steps towards improving one side of Table Tennis which has unfortunately been somewhat neglected. They devised a County Umpire Scheme and made preparations for its being brought into operation.

The object of the scheme is to improve the general standard of umpiring throughout the country, and to have available for tournaments and international matches a large body of really competent umpires.

In order to do so, the E.T.T.A. have prepared a question paper to be issued to all those desirous of participating in the scheme. The idea behind this question paper is to ensure that all the qualified umpires are fully conversant with the theoretical side of umpiring and able to deal with any position or knotty point that arises. A copy of this question paper is obtainable from League secretary, Mr. W. Stamp.

No applicant will be admitted to the scheme unless he or she first completes the paper. When filling it in you will be allowed the assistance of your friends and also to consult the rule book, but you must not copy the answers from another paper.

## PRACTICAL TEST

There is also a practical test to find out whether you have the ability to control a match with firmness and tact and realise that you are performing a very important task in the way the particular match is presented to the audience. Further to that the quality of your speaking voice will be taken into consideration as you probably realise that it is impossible to follow a game if the umpire does not speak clearly.

When you have satisfied the adjudication board you will be eligible for a County Umpire's Badge, which will be forwarded to you on payment of a registration fee of 2/6. This badge will remain the property of the E.T.T.A., and the fee paid shall be refunded should the badge be returned for any reason.

It is hoped that a number of Merseyside enthusiasts will join the scheme as I can assure you that the position of the Umpires during a match is of

as much importance as that of the player.

Remember this: whenever you play a match you need an umpire. It is therefore your duty to do your bit in this direction and to lighten the load of those few who are called upon so often to officiate.

There are many of us poor mortals who do not stand a chance of reaching the heights as a player, but we can all become a first-class umpire if we just exert a little thought and effort and you will receive a great deal of pleasure from this most important side of your game. Who knows you may be the one to umpire the Men's Singles Final at Wembley Pool.

The words of our great war-time leader can convey more than any words of mine - "Never was so much owed by so many to so few" - so join in and become one of the selected few.

## BE GOOD HOSTS

1.—Make sure that all the home players, as far as possible, arrive early.

2.—Provide comfortable accommodation for changing.

3.—The catering must not be overlooked. Let's have no more of the chipped and cracked cups. It is amazing how food can be improved by tasteful arrangement on clear plates.

4.—And remember, every member can help to make the visitors feel at home by a friendly spirit on all occasions. Nothing is more depressing or more common to see the opposing teams on either side of the room for the entire evening, with hardly a friendly word passing between them.

Let's see if hospitality in the League can be made better than ever this year, and greater enjoyment of the evenings will surely ensue for everyone concerned.

## West Region Continued

the water this time! However, Shakespeare, in King John says: "We from the West will send destruction into the City's bosom." and although I don't suppose he was thinking of table tennis at the time, it wouldn't make a bad motto for our Region.