

# TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

EDITORIAL BOARD:

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## COMMENT

Probably the outstanding feature of the season so far, has been the general levelling up of the relative strengths of the various clubs. This has possibly been most marked in the First Division, where for all too long only two or three teams have had any real chance of gaining honours. As a welcome change this year, there is no really outstanding side, and a keen struggle for the leading places appear certain.

This is all to the good, and it is pleasing to note that in other divisions also, there is every indication of hard fights developing.

This state of affairs is one to be expected as the League commences its seventh post-war season. Clubs are finding their proper level, and the increasing closeness of matches must inevitably mean that players will gain much more from their sets in interest and enjoyment, than in some recent seasons.

Another feature is the gradual rise in the general standard of play, though there is still some way to go before the pre-war level will be reached. There has been a fair number of promising youngsters coming along, and it is a pity that in several cases, the demands of National Service are interfering with their development.

It remains a fact, however, that prospects of any major triumph by a local in the forthcoming Merseyside Open, are not very bright, and the League will have to find a few outstanding stars of the Ken Hyde, Nora Norrish class, before we can hope to keep one of the singles titles in Liverpool.



From The Secretary's Desk

## French Stars Pay First Visit To Merseyside Open

By W. Stamp

The 15th Merseyside commencing next Wednesday, will be unique inasmuch that for the first time in its history, there will be three Frenchmen competing. They are to represent their Country against England, at Birmingham, on the 27th, but are flying here on the 24th, to take part in our tournament.

I regret that Barna is unable to compete owing to a prior engagement, nor will the Rowe twins be present, but I am hoping they will visit us before the end of the season.

**Do Not** forget to bring your magazine to the finals at the Philharmonic Hall, as we have made provision for you to have a permanent record of the finalists and their scores.

Many clubs have taken advantage of the fact that they could obtain their tickets from me, but to those who can get to Jack Sharp's, Rushworth's or the Philharmonic Hall, where booking plans are available, I would say **don't leave it until the last minute.**

### PEN PICTURES

I have not the space to discuss all the entries, but here are some pen pictures which should be of interest.

**MICHEL HAGUENAUER.** Tall, ambling, amiable, with a habitual shrug. Has a sound defence. It is difficult to envisage the French team without him. Caused a great surprise by defeating **LEACH** in last year's World Championships. Took **BERGMAN** to five games in the final of the English Open, at Wembley, last March.

**GUY AMOURETTL.** Sang Froid, aplomb and heavy chop are this gentleman's characteristics. Can rise to considerable heights and then, in his next match, for no apparent reason, lose resoundingly but without turning a hair.

**RENE ROTHOF.** Dark, with an elegant moustache, he has a quietly efficient all round game, which does not at first glance impress. His steadiness and concentration are excellent.

**JOHNNY LEACH.** Last year's World Champion, is the finest player this



country has produced. Has a well co-ordinated game switching from defence to attack with ease and control. A great favourite wherever he goes.

**AUBREY SIMONS.** Cherubic, stocky and bespectacled, stands fast at the table, chops and half volleys viciously and kills in a flash. Has beaten Barna, Andreadis and Vana, and beat **LEACH** to 17 in the third game to win the East of England Open, six weeks ago.

The Middlesex team who will travel here from Blackpool, after their County Championship match against Manchester, on the 24th, will include **GEOFF HARROWER**, **BERNARD CROUCH**, **DENNIS MILLER** and **JOYCE ROBERTS** and from the Lancashire team we will have our own **BENNY CASOFSKY**, **KEN STANLEY**, **GEO. GOODMAN** and **ADELIE WOOD**, who are all capable of bringing titles to the North, to say nothing of our own players whom I cannot mention individually.

# League Headquarters ?

By "Calchas"

Some two years ago the Management Committee proposed starting a League Headquarters, but the proposition, though having a majority in favour at the Annual General Meeting, did not get the required two-thirds.

I make no apologies for re-opening this matter, for, in my view, the League cannot continue to progress until it has its own Headquarters. No one doubts the advantages to the League of having its own home; a place where all General Meetings and Committee Meetings could be held, where tournaments and representative matches would be played; a centre for an increased coaching scheme, and, most important of all, a place where all could call in and meet one another over a friendly game and a cup of tea.

Why then, with such advantages, did the proposal fail?

First and foremost, I believe it failed for the Management Committee bungled the job. They did not come out with their proposal until the Annual General Meeting and did everything through the Club Secretaries, who had little time to consult all their members on such a vital matter.

## BEGIN EARLY

The job should be tackled early in the season when interest and enthusiasm is at its height, then by the time the Annual General Meeting comes round any alteration in rule which is required could have been thoroughly thrashed out.

The scheme failed because a minority at the Annual General Meeting did not agree with the compulsory nature of the proposals. Like most people I do not look with favour on compulsory things, but if it is felt that this is the only way to get a desired object, and the majority agree, surely, that is enough.

In speaking to many of those who voted against the proposition, I found they were all in favour of a League Headquarters if it was run on a voluntary basis, but they could not tell me how it could be put into practice and at the same time guarantee an income sufficient to keep the Headquarters going. In fairness to the Management Committee, they cannot be

expected to launch such a scheme with your money if they do not have this guarantee.

Other members from the Cheshire side of the river felt it would be no good to them, as they would be paying for some other person's enjoyment. With this view I could have little sympathy, for a central site in town would be just as easy for them to get to and from as for people living in the suburbs of Liverpool.

There is one other point of considerable importance. With the League's greatly increased membership, there must be a great number of members, who, beyond having a game in their club and one match per week, have no other interest in table tennis. There are some members who pay their registration fee and never even take part in a League match. Are these people going to leave the League if subscriptions are raised?

There would be no problem if all our members gave the League their 100 per cent. enthusiasm and support, but this cannot be expected, and these people, who are just playing members, are fully entitled to adopt this attitude.

## ANDREE JONES' FINE WIN

Congratulations to Miss Andree Jones on winning the Women's Doubles in the Birmingham Open where she was partnered by Betty Steventon. They beat Adele Wood and Vera Taylor of Manchester, 18-21, 21-17, 21-11, and on their way to the final had eliminated Mrs. M. Comberbatch and Miss G. Hore, Mrs. P. Mortimer, and Miss L. Alley, of Birmingham, and in the semi-final Miss Jean McKay and Mrs. Dinah Smith, who were the semi-finalists in the English Open last March.

Andree also reached the quarter-finals of the singles, and it was only her lack of experience that prevented her creating the sensation of the tournament when she narrowly lost to Peggy Franks, 21-17, 20-22, 17-21.

She is gaining that experience by entering every possible tournament, and another year may see her hitting the highlights.

## Crosby will miss Hand

Five weeks' fixtures have now been completed, and no team in the First Division can still boast a 100 per cent. record. Leading the field are Balfour and Homecroft, who have each dropped two points, the former having drawn with Rafter's and 15th Crosby, and the latter with Crosby and Rafter's "A."

Personal records have also been knocked about considerably, and there is only Peter and Ronnie Rumjahn left with an unbeaten record. Peter spoiling his brother Ted's record when they met in the local "Derby"—Rafter's versus Rafter's "A." This was a close match, Rafter's winning 6-4. The winners included A. Linforth for the first time this season after his leg injury, and "Pinky" May, both of whom, together with Peter, won two sets each.

### PRE-VIEW

I said in my previous article that 15th Crosby were going to find it difficult to maintain their high position, and they had a pre-view of what to expect when Bernard Hand goes into the Forces, when they visited Balfour "A." Owing to an inter-city match they were without Bernard's services, and as their reserves are not up to First Division standard, Bamford, Watts, and Delamere must win two sets each if the team is to win.

In this instance, Joe Watts failed against myself, and Balfour "A" most gratefully accepted another point. Crosby might easily have lost both the points when Ken Harold took Bamford to 20-all in the third game, and it was also only after a hard struggle that Delamere overcame Bill Harris in the third game of their set.

Homecroft, the youngest team in the division, dropped a point to Rafter's "A", due mainly to the convincing wins of Teddie Rumjahn and Vic Chesham over both Roy Jones and Bob Edwards. Jones does not appear to have touched his form of last season, but Edwards has been playing very well, his victims so far including Hand and Bamford. It was his successes over these two players which enabled Homecroft to share the points with Crosby.

Anfield and African Oil are finding

points hard to get, but I think the Anfield players would settle down and perhaps gain a little more confidence if they were not switched around from match to match. Chopping and changing only tends to upset players.

I now come to the "match of the month"—Balfour v. Rafter's, which ended in a draw. Strengthened by the return of Ronnie Rumjahn, Rafter's won four sets from their first two players, Peter and Ronnie. Their other set was won by R. Grayson, and for Balfour, Norman Jones and Eileen Mansell, two each, and Dennis Caldwell one.

Ronnie, I thought, was at his best, his game against Reg. Hetherington being full of vigour, and his forehand drives simply devastating. Eileen Mansell is playing grand stuff, and again it was a matter of the tail wagging for Balfour.

# Look!

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# The Last Game Decided Match

Each month I will be dealing with the fortunes of two teams, and start with my own, Acacia, and Oakhill "A" because I think my knowledge of their players is greater than most of the other teams at the moment. Let me begin with Oakhill.

In their first game again Bibby's they met the strongest team in the division, and it was no wonder they lost 8-2, even on their own shiny table. One unusual feature was that only one set reached three games and that finished 21-9.

Oakhill made amends the following week by excelling at my own club. Farrell's persistence and Boyle's hitting caused Acacia's penholding leader, Les Egerton, to lose both his games at home for the first time since playing in the League. The brightest spot from Acacia's viewpoint was the good play of Rowan and Moseley, but four games will not win a match.

## REAL STRUGGLE

Oakhill's home game with the Police provided a very enjoyable match, which ended 6-4 in Oakhill's favour. Before this a real struggle took place, with no more than one set advantage to either side. Oakhill began slowly, and Lloyd, playing in his first game since last year, showed that he knew the way, but could not reach his objective.

Against Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. he was back to form, but Farrell had an off day, while Boyle and Loughrey shared their sets to finish the match 6-4 in the Y.M.'s favour.

Sleepless nights it has been over the fortunes and misfortunes of Acacia. In the first match at Aigburth the result was never in doubt, but this was no test for Acacia with new men in their team.

It was unfortunate that the only two players who won against Oakhill should not be able to turn out at Anfield, but Egerton redeemed his previous week's display by sheer determination, but the others could only do their best against an all round good opposition.

I.C.F. met an aggressive Acacia out to avenge their two previous week's defeats. However, it was not easy, as seven sets were decided by a third game and Egerton again lost his two games at home. There was a real

game of wits and patience between Moseley and Jones before Moseley came out winner 22-20 in the third. McCarthy has improved, and is going to be an asset during the season.

Acacia continued winning ways against the Police, and had six on the board before their opponents were off the mark. Egerton's games with Hough and Crafter were the closest, and defat by Crafter made him share his games like Blunn had done and finish the match 8-2. Roberts, playing his first match, had two enjoyable sets.

## Ode To The Digest

The Digest, oh the Digest, the trouble you have caused,  
The last few weeks your Editors have very rarely paused.  
The stamps have all been struck on, the envelopes addressed,  
And all concerned have taken a really well-earned rest.

But hark, the 'phone is ringing, the G.P.O. are there,  
Something gone wrong with the works, but who are they to care.  
So round the P.O.'s tables, a trio stands in tears,  
For this is just another case of blood, sweat, toil, and tears.

The envelopes have been refused, their flaps are just too wide,  
Perhaps some other letters will find their way inside,  
The air is blue, the trio too, as round the place they slip,  
Inserting in each copy, a small brass paper clip.

The work is done, the Digest gone, our fingers smeared with blood,  
I hope you all will think, dear friends, the magazine is good.  
For after all our Labour, a Liberal dose of news,  
Will come to you each month folks. Conservative in views.

The above unsigned effusion was found on the night of the President's dinner.—Editor.

## Bohemians Lead By Great Win

As I write, our clubs have each played three matches, and some of us, particularly the Bohemians and Hoylake, are feeling optimistic and confident, while others are wondering just where our plans have misfired.

A good start inspires confidence, and teams once on top take a lot of dislodging. A shaky start, on the other hand, always appears to bring bad luck and often its effects last throughout the season.

A feature of the opening week's results was the almost total eclipse of last season's four Third Divisioners by newcomers. The four picked up only one point (Wavertree Community) and only eight sets between them.

Oakhill and Victoria Park, however, atoned in their following match with 8-2 and 9-1 victories.

After the second week's matches we had but two 100% clubs, and as they met in the next league match the number was reduced to one. Bohemians, which indicates the stern struggle ahead for promotion aspirants.

### FIVE UNBEATEN

Individually, only 19 of the 50 players taking part were able to claim 100 per cent. records after the first week, and 14 of these failed to keep it up after the second match. The five remaining top-liners were G. E. Ball, H. P. Harkness, and H. D. Vaughan, of Hoylake, and A. Rycroft and D. Young, of Bohemians.

Continuing with the monthly introduction of our teams, we now spotlight the glamour club, Rafter's, which, formed as recently as 1945, immediately became one of the big guns of the League. Our division is graced with their third string, and lucky for our averages there are not quite enough Ramjahns to allow this team a ration.

A much changed team from last season, Rafter's "B" is ably led by backhand flick merchant C. Swindells, who is this season combining age and experience with youth. Helping out in experience is R. Brennand, last season's team manager with Huyton, but now helping out his old club. A. Jones, R. Percival, T. Rhodes, and D. Applebee, with ages rising from 15 years, provide the youth, and, despite an indifferent start, the team promises

to blend together into a force to be reckoned with.

An example of the popularity of the club is the fact that two of this team live on the Cheshire side and travel over for matches and practice.

Reverting to divisional news, we have eight representatives in Round 1 of the Readman Cup. Domestic and Westfield went out after stern tussles with Edwardians and Luccan, but the survivors have been lucky again with five home draws, and we confidently expect to be well represented in Round 2.

A bouquet for the month's best performances goes to Livex for their smashing 9-1 away victory at Wavertree Community.

Bohemians gained a magnificent 6-4 victory at Hoylake, to put them on top of the division as the only remaining unbeaten team. It also made a hash of some 100 per cent. individual averages.

## NEED FOR UMPIRES IS GREAT

Good umpires play a big part in the success of any open tournament, and volunteers are wanted for the Merseyside, particularly on Saturday, when the entrants from outside the 30 mile limit are competing.

We appreciate that everyone wants to see as much as they can of the "stars" in action, and we do not expect anyone to umpire continuously for five or six hours, but if we have a rota of sufficient size to allocate four to each table (which is well within the capacity of this League to provide) they will umpire one game and be able to watch three.

Badges will be issued, and the Management Committee have asked Mr. George Williams, the Secretary of Balfour, to once more undertake the duties of Captain of Umpires. Those willing to help are asked to contact him either at 10, Brompton Avenue, or at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, November 22nd, letting him know at what sessions they will be available.

Our greatest need is SATURDAY, from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

## Four Still Without A Point

Results so far have gone as was expected. Only two teams, Balfour "B" and Cheshire Lines, can claim a 100 per cent. record, the former holding a better average of 23.7 against the Railwaymen's 18.12.

Aigburth "A," Edwardians, Holme Hey, and Waterloo Dock are still waiting for their first points, the last-named holding the "wooden spoon," having only won six sets to 24 against.

George Gowar, the St. Michael's No. 1, is the main reason why his team have begun the season so successfully, having taken five out of six points. His performances in beating Waterloo Dock's J. C. Seddon, and Kingway's S. J. Railton were quite an achievement when one remembers what those players did last season.

E. Handley (Edwardians) told me in a telephone conversation that his team are now playing in a much larger room with improved lighting, he hopes that with this change it may soon bring them their first point.

Aigburth "A," having returned to the cricket pavilion for their matches, had Dunlop as visitors, but this change did not bring them their first point, and they went down by two sets.

Balfour "B" continued on their winning way by defeating Waterloo Dock at home 7-3. Seddon claimed two of his side's three sets, defeating Huyton and Gill after some grand games.

The first drawn game in the division was recorded when St. Michael's and Kingsway met on the former's table. Kingsway, after being two down, fought back well to take a 3-2 lead at the interval, and were feeling very pleased when J. Berry made it 5-3 and a certain one point for them. St. Michael's, however, are never beaten, and their tail came along to snatch the last two sets and make an interesting game end all square.

Cheshire Lines repeated their two previous victories by again winning 6-4.

The very sportsman-like side Port Sunlight Old Boys, who are again playing their home matches in Lever Bros. men's dining hall, commenced their home programme by defeating

Holme Hey by nine sets to one. Eric Wall had the one solitary success for the visitors, defeating the veteran D. Grant 21-12, 21-15.

## READMAN CUP

The draw for the second round of the Readman Cup, to be played during the week commencing December 4th, has been made as follows:—

Bohemians "A" v. Thorndale.

Dunlop v. Burlington.

Thingwall v. St. Michael's.

Hoylake Y.M.C.A. v. Edwardians.

Elm Hall Drive v. Waterloo Dock.

Wallasey Ym. Jurs. v. Livex.

Byes.—Lucern, Bohemians, Oakhill "B," R.A.F. (W.K.), Victoria Park, Bath Street.

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# Tribute to the President

By J. D. Pattison

If you feel you are beaten, you are. If you feel you dare not, you don't. Always remember that a game is not lost until it is finished.

Mr. C. E. Bartholomew, the President of the League, gave this advice to table tennis players in returning thanks for the gifts presented to him by the League and Management Committee at the dinner last month in celebration of his 80th birthday.

And who should be better qualified, as Mr. D. Foulis (the League's chairman) pointed out, than a man who, in his lifetime, has been footballer, cricketer, boxer, oarsman, rifle shot, and table tennis player.

In his tribute to the President, Mr. Foulis reminded us that Mr. Bartholomew had been associated with the League as player, club official, chairman, and president. It was he said, due to his support that the first Merseyside Open Championships were held, and he had since perpetuated his name with the cup he had given for competition between the women's teams.

## SOUND GUIDE

But it was to Mr. Bartholomew's work behind the scenes Mr. Foulis paid greatest tribute. He was never, he said, president in name only, but a sound counsellor and guide and always a staunch supporter of the game.

It was fitting that the toast to Mr. Bartholomew should be seconded by the League Secretary, Mr. W. Stamp, for it is probable that no one has had a closer association with him. Although he admitted that he had not always found the President an easy man to handle, Mr. Stamp contended that was because he was too good an administrator and too keen on the interests of the League. But, he added, once convinced that a project was for the good of the game and he was with you all the way.

Mr. Foulis then presented the gift of the Management Committee to Mr. Bartholomew, and Mr. Stamp called on Mr. Sid Jackson, as one of the oldest members of the League there, to present the League's tribute, consisting of a silver match-box case, Dunhill pipe, and tobacco.

I have known Mr. Bartholomew,



Mr. Foulis presenting the Management Committee's tribute.

many years but never have seen him so affected as he was when he rose to respond. Modestly he claimed that his contribution to the League was but a minor one and that the members had to thank their very efficient Chairman, Secretary and Management Committee much more than him, for the success it had attained.

They, he said, had to deal with the week-to-week problems, and it was only due to their tireless energy and continual enthusiasm that the League ran so smoothly.

Mr. Frank Moore then proposed the toast of the guests—Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Bartholomew, Mr. and Mrs. John Bartholomew, and Mr. John Carroll, an old friend of the President—and in replying, Mr. Leslie Bartholomew gave us a good laugh when he recalled that he became interested in table tennis because his wife, then Miss Ann Pollitt, was interested and, of course, he was interested in Ann.

The enjoyment of the evening was not a little due to the efforts of Messrs. Crone and Warburton, Pritchard, and Stanford, who provided a first-class entertainment.

## JOINING UP

I heard that Bernard Hand has to report for duty with the Royal Air Force on Monday. Here's hoping he has plenty of opportunities to continue the game.



## Hard Fight Ahead for "A" Team

The season has not begun too well for Liverpool, for we lost our first two games against Bolton 'A' and Manchester 'A'.

The Bolton match was played at Bibbys and it produced some excellent table tennis. Bolton were all fairly young but they were not in any way deterred by meeting such an old campaigner as Peter Rumjahn. Daly, in particular, played exceptionally well and did not drop a game in his three sets. More will be heard of him.

The match ended in a 7-3 win for Bolton, Daly and Smith, with three sets each, and Conroy gaining Bolton's successes, while Peter Rumjahn and Bernard Hand each won a singles for Liverpool while Rumjahn and Chesham took the doubles.

### DOUBLES SUCCESS

The combination of R. Allcock and D. Baker proved too strong for the same Liverpool side and beat us by 9-1. Our only success was in the doubles through Rumjahn and Hand, and it would appear that the experiment of the doubles division has at least made our players doubles-conscious.

The Lancashire handbook has now been published and on present showing our "A" team will have to fight very hard to keep their heads above water. At first sight it would appear that Manchester are favourites for the title, but with opposition from Heaps, of Macclesfield, and Sheppard and Daly (Bolton) there may be a surprise result.

There is no reason why the "B" team should not more than hold their own in the Second Division, as last season proved that their standard was above that of the Third Division. The call-up to the Forces may be the deciding factor in this division, for I hear that there will be a considerable number of younger players taking part.

The Women's Division will in all probability resolve itself into another three-cornered fight between Manchester, Blackpool, and Liverpool. In the past honours have ended with Liverpool and Manchester, but it is expected that Blackpool will have

something to say about this during the present season.

The following matches are due to be played before Christmas:—

- Dec. 6.—-Chesham v. Liverpool "B."
- 8.—-Liverpool "A" v. Bolton "B."
- 9.—-Crews v. Liverpool (women).

## WILMOTT CUP SUCCESS

Liverpool overcame her first hurdle in the Wilmott Cup by convincingly beating Blackpool at Blackpool on November 4th by nine sets to none.

We were represented by Peter and Teddy Rumjahn and Bernard Hand, and as the score suggests they each won their three sets with something to spare. Indeed, only two of the 27 sets went to three games, those between Peter Rumjahn and R. Bradbury and Hand and C. Lowe. Here are the details:—

P. Rumjahn beat C. Lowe 21-19 21-14; beat K. Cox 21-14 21-15; beat R. Bradbury 21-18 11-21 21-9. E. J. Rumjahn beat Cox 21-6 21-16; beat Bradbury 21-15 22-20; beat Lowe 21-14 21-19. B. Hand beat Bradbury 21-15 21-13; beat Lowe 21-11 18-21 21-15; beat Cox 21-13 21-14.

Drawn against Burnley in the first round of the Rose Bowl, Liverpool Ladies break new ground, for it is the first time that the two leagues have been in opposition.

### CRAZY DEFINITION

- Match Point.—Red part of a lucifer.
- Game.—Pheasant or grouse.
- Digest. Shortly after a meal.
- Pusher. Motorist whose car won't start.
- Chou.—Something the butcher doesn't know.
- Let.—All the houses you go after.
- Mixed Doubles.—Gin and whisky.
- Men's Doubles.—Large ones.

# LEAGUE TABLES.

Up To November 4, 1950

First Division								WOMEN.—First Division							
P. W. L. D. F. A. P.								P. W. L. D. F. A. P.							
Balfour	5	3	0	2	34	16	8	Balfour	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Homecroft	5	3	0	2	33	17	8	Rafters	5	4	1	0	39	11	8
Rafters	5	3	1	1	30	20	7	Aigburth	5	4	1	0	33	17	8
15th Crosby	5	2	0	3	27	23	7	Bootle C.D.	5	3	1	1	25	25	7
B'head Y.M.C.A.	5	2	2	1	29	21	5	Babbys	5	3	2	0	29	21	6
Rafters "A"	5	2	2	1	27	23	5	Homecroft	5	3	2	0	26	24	6
Balfour "A"	5	1	1	3	24	26	5	C.L.C.	5	1	3	1	19	31	3
Oakhill	5	2	3	0	19	31	4	Oakhill	5	1	4	0	17	33	2
Anfield	5	0	4	1	16	34	1	Anfield	5	0	5	0	13	37	0
African Oil	5	0	5	0	11	39	0	Wavertree C.C.	5	0	5	0	8	42	0

Second Division								Second Division							
Babbys	5	5	0	0	35	15	10	Domestic Mis.	5	4	1	0	39	11	8
Homecroft "A"	5	4	0	1	39	11	9	Mossley Hill	5	4	1	0	37	13	8
Acacia	5	3	2	0	30	20	6	Rafters	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
B'head Y.M. "A"	5	2	1	2	27	23	6	L'blewoods	5	4	1	0	33	17	8
Bootle Y.M.C.A.	5	2	2	1	21	29	5	Aigburth "A"	5	3	2	0	38	12	6
Anfield "A"	4	1	1	2	21	19	4	L'blewoods "A"	5	2	3	0	20	30	4
Oakhill "A"	5	2	3	0	21	29	4	St. Josephs	4	1	3	0	11	29	2
L.P.A.S.	5	1	3	1	24	26	3	Osterley	3	0	2	1	10	20	1
I.C.I.	5	0	4	1	17	33	1	Post Sunlight	5	0	4	1	5	45	1
Aigburth	4	0	4	0	5	35	0	I.C.I.	5	0	5	0	8	42	0

Third Division								SOUTH.—First Division							
Bohemians	3	3	0	0	20	10	6	Wav'tree CC. "A"	3	3	0	0	29	1	6
Hovlake Y.M.C.A.	3	2	1	0	21	9	4	Lucan	3	3	0	0	23	2	6
Oakhill "B"	3	2	1	0	15	15	4	L'pool Y.M.C.A.	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Victoria Park	3	2	1	0	15	15	4	Aigburth M.	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
Wall. Y.M. Jrs.	3	1	1	1	18	12	3	Elm Hall Dr.	3	2	1	0	14	16	4
Livex	3	1	1	1	17	13	3	Victoria Pk. "A"	3	1	2	0	12	18	2
Westfield	3	1	2	0	14	16	2	Mossley Hill	3	1	2	0	7	23	2
Domestic Mis.	3	0	1	2	12	18	2	Tech. Studs.	3	0	3	0	7	23	0
Wavertree Co.	3	0	2	1	10	20	1	Aigburth "B"	3	0	3	0	4	26	0
Rafters "B"	3	0	2	1	8	22	1	C.L.C. "A"	3	0	3	0	4	26	0

Fourth Division								Second Division							
Balfour "B"	3	3	0	0	23	7	6	L'pool Y.M. "A"	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
C.L.C.	3	3	0	0	18	12	6	Cadwa "A"	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
St. Michael's	3	2	0	1	23	7	5	Livex "A"	3	2	0	1	23	7	5
Kingsway	3	2	0	1	20	10	5	Lucan "A"	3	2	0	1	22	8	5
P. Sunlight O.B.	3	2	1	0	20	10	4	Dunlop "A"	3	2	1	0	22	8	4
Dunlops	3	2	1	0	16	14	4	Deaf Inst.	3	1	2	0	12	18	2
Edwardians	3	0	3	0	9	21	0	St. Michael's "A"	3	0	2	1	11	19	1
Aigburth "A"	3	0	3	0	8	22	0	Wavertree CC "B"	3	0	2	1	9	21	1
Holme Hey	3	0	3	0	7	23	0	Aigburth "C"	3	0	3	0	7	23	0
Waterloo Dock	3	0	3	0	6	24	0	C.L.C. "B"	3	0	3	0	1	29	0

# LEAGUE TABLES.

Up To November 4, 1950

## WEST—First Division

P.		P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
10	Bronze Sports	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
8	Thorndale	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
6	Wall. Jrs. "A"	3	2	0	1	18	12	5
7	Victory Soc.	3	2	1	0	16	14	4
6	B'head Co-op.	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
6	B'head Y.M. Jrs.	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
3	St. Joseph's	3	1	2	0	16	14	2
2	Wall Motors	3	0	2	1	11	19	1
0	Claremont	3	0	3	0	12	18	0
0	Creep Inn	3	0	3	0	9	21	0

## EAST—First Division

P.		P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
6	Balfour "C"	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
6	Bohemians "A"	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
4	Galwa	3	2	1	0	18	12	4
4	African Oil "A"	3	2	1	0	15	15	4
3	Tarves	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
3	Anfield "B"	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
3	St. Barts.	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
1	O'feley	3	0	2	1	11	19	1
0	Westfield "A"	3	0	3	0	7	23	0
0	St. Mloysius	3	0	3	0	6	24	0

## Second Division

8	St. Peter's	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
8	Burrowdale	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
8	Cosco	3	2	0	1	24	6	5
8	Creep Inn "A"	3	2	1	0	12	18	4
6	Hoylake Y.M. "A"	3	1	1	1	12	13	3
4	Claremont "A"	3	1	2	0	16	14	2
2	Kingsway "A"	3	1	2	0	14	16	2
1	St. M. and Paul	3	0	3	0	3	22	0
1	Vernons	2	0	2	0	4	16	0
0	St. Joseph's "A"	2	0	2	0	3	17	0

## Second Division

6	Bohemians "B"	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
6	Balfour "B"	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
4	East Waverley	3	2	1	0	18	12	4
4	Reby Y.C.	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
4	N.A.B.U.K.	3	2	1	0	16	14	4
2	Edwardsons "A"	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
2	Oakhill "C"	3	1	2	0	13	7	2
2	Osterley "A"	3	1	2	0	12	18	2
0	Bohemians "C"	3	0	3	0	10	20	0
0	R.A.F.A. (L.P.)	3	0	3	0	8	22	0

## Third Division

6	Thorndale "A"	3	2	0	1	23	7	5
6	Cosco "A"	3	2	0	1	21	9	5
6	Burrowdale "B"	3	0	1	2	13	17	2
4	Wall Motors "A"	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
4	Port Sunlight	3	2	1	0	15	15	4
2	Thingwall	3	1	1	1	19	11	3
2	Creep Inn "B"	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
0	Burrowdale "B"	3	0	1	2	13	17	2
0	Cosco "B"	3	0	3	0	3	27	0
0	Claremont "B"	3	0	3	0	2	28	0

## NORTH

4	Burlington	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
4	Engl. Elect	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
4	Bath Street	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
4	Boyle Y.M. "A"	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
4	Linacre	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
3	Walsley Park	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
2	Hamilton M.	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
2	Wat'loo DR. "A"	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
1	Brenka	3	0	2	1	11	19	1
0	Gordon Inst.	2	0	2	0	5	15	0

## Fourth Division

6	R.A.F. (W.K.)	3	3	0	0	29	1	6
6	B'hd Y.M. Jrs "A"	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
5	Penton Maths	3	2	0	1	17	13	5
5	R.A.F.A. (B'head)	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
4	Thorndale "B"	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
2	Wall. Jrs. "B"	3	0	1	2	14	16	2
1	Noston O.B.	3	1	2	0	10	20	2
1	Y.W.C.A.	3	0	2	1	9	21	1
0	P. Sunlight "A"	3	0	2	1	8	22	1
0	Thingwall "A"	3	0	3	0	3	27	0

## YOUTH

8	Hoylake Y.M.C.A.	5	4	1	0	36	14	8
6	B'head B.C. "A"	5	3	2	0	33	17	6
6	B'head B.C.	4	3	1	0	26	14	6
6	Ashville	5	3	2	0	31	19	6
6	Woodchurch	5	3	2	0	30	20	6
5	Greensby	5	2	1	27	23	5	
4	Shaftsbury	5	2	3	0	20	30	4
4	St. Annes (R.F.)	5	2	3	0	13	37	4
3	Heswall	5	1	3	1	22	28	3
0	Conv/Youth	4	0	4	0	2	38	0

## Balfour Only 100 per cent Team

Most of you will have your best table tennis "bib and tucker" all ready for the "Ladies' Night" at the Drill Hall on Wednesday next.

Many will regret that the Gordon Institute is not to be the scene, as we had come to look upon the "Gordon," with its homely atmosphere, as almost our own hall, and many will feel that they are "playing away" at this year's Open. Let us hope the new venue will come up to expectations and be the start of a new epoch in Merseyside table tennis.

I, personally, think that some of the games in the preliminary rounds are often more exciting than the actual finals as so many players become stage conscious, and there are not many who do not suffer from finals nerves.

### TOUCH AND GO

The season is already well under way, and many good matches have been played, not to mention exchange of holiday experiences and jumper patterns, etc. ! ! !

Balfour are the only team in the First Division to have won all their matches. It was touch and go against Rafter's; the score 7-3 does not really do the match justice. It was certainly Olive Dickenson's night out against Blucey and Pinkie May, Olive winning both sets, 25-23, in the third against Pinkie, and a very hard match against Blucey. This surely saved the day for Balfour.

Kay Rumjahn, who was only just recuperating from an operation, was naturally playing well below her form. I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see the score reversed in the return match, or at least a draw. It should be an exciting match.

Homecroft have been fortunate to sign on Pat Lees, who has a good, open style, as their No. 2. Molly Christian, I believe, has decided to play in Claremont's mixed team only this year.

Bibby's run of successes was halted at Oakhill, when the latter won 6-4. Joyce Cook fell to Mary Rubert in the third game, after a very exciting match, 23-25, 21-18, 23-21. Petite Doreen Lancaster also did her share by defeating M. Bannister, and only

just lost to Marjorie Barron 19-21 in the third game. The other sets were won by Edna Moore, W. Hignett, and E. Davis (2).

Mrs. L. Jenkins, Bootle Civil Defence, commenced the season in grand style at home against Balfour, by defeating Olive Dickenson 26-24, 11-21, 21-17, which, as most of you know, is no mean feat. B. Waterson also won her match against Lil Robinson to reduce Balfour's lead by two sets.

Aigburth's first team only lost one match in October. They are fortunate in their very capable secretary, Mrs. Irene Sturgeon, who is in no small way responsible for the friendly hospitality always to be found there, both in League matches and inter-city matches. Mrs. Sturgeon is also a very keen supporter of all the League activities.

Littlewoods top the Second Division, having won all their matches in October, which is a jolly good start for their first season. Domestic Mission, Mossley Hill, and Rafter's "A" follow, having lost one match.

### TITLE WINNER

Owing to an oversight last month, the winner of the guinea prize for suggesting a title for the League's magazine was omitted. He was Mr. J. Griffiths, secretary of the Holme Hey Club, who has since become contributor of the Fourth Division notes. More than 500 entries were received in the competition.

### Dates to Remember

NOV. 22-25	Merseyside Open.
NOV. 29 - DEC. 2	English Open
Jan. 18-20	Lancashire Open.
FEB. 9	England v. Ireland at Liverpool.
MAR. 26	League Championships.

## Leaders in Marathon Match

Gather round North Regionnaires and let us review and talk over two weeks of League and Cup battles.

The match between Hamilton Mission and Burlington provided some astonishing facts and figures. Eight of the ten sets went to three games, of which Hamilton Mission lost six, and of the 28 games played Burlington took 18 and the Mission 10. Believe it or not the Mission lost 8-2. The score of the game between F. Wilkes and Marney Harrison was 30-28 9-21 21-18.

At the time of writing Burlington lead the League and their most serious challengers are likely to be English Electric, Bootle Y.M., and Linaere.

### EARNED REPLAY

Gordon Institute, the region's newcomers, are finding their engagements rather rough, but I am sure they will battle on and try to strengthen their side.

In the Readman Cup we still have worthy representatives. Norman Cooke earned a replay for Bath Street by winning the last set against Wavertree "A" 21-14 16-21 24-22.

J. G. Webster and J. Bridge laid the foundations of Waterloo Dock's victory in their Hyde Cup-tie against Kingsway "A" by winning two sets each. Bob Russell, the Dock's No. 1, also won both sets against Waterloo Park, and Frank Lacey, Linaere's penholder, got two of his team's four sets against English Electric.

Jack Lambert, English Electric's fair-minded secretary, sends me a note complaining: "We played on a dance floor and one of our players injured his knee and wrist through slipping. I think the floor more important than the lighting."

There's a lot in what Jack says, and I will add a complaint of my own. Will secretaries please advise me in advance of re-arranged matches. I called at one club to see a match only to find it had been re-arranged.

Also will secretaries please keep me posted on the fortunes of your club and players.

A suggestion comes from Alec Davidson about regional tournaments. Let's have an event for all Nos. 1, 2 and 3 and another for 4's and 5's. What do you think?

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Mr. Ernest Edwards ("Bee"), the famous Liverpool sports writer, has consented to write a special commentary on the Merseyside Open finals at the Philharmonic Hall for the Digest

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### GET YOUR BADGE

The new League badge and brooches will be on sale at the Drill Hall and Philharmonic Hall during the Merseyside. Be sure you get yours. They are priced 1s.

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# Great Game Opens New Home

As I write only three weeks' fixtures have been completed, but it is already clear that the division leaders, Thorndale, Cosco, Thorndale "A," and R.A.F. (West Kirby), are not going to be dislodged easily. However, the season is young.

Thorndale v. Claremont: This was the opening match at Thorndale's new pavilion, surely one of the finest in all Merseyside. On their play I don't see either team dropping many points this season. The spectators—I counted at least 50—were kept on tenterhooks to the end. Thorndale won by the odd set, 21-19, in the third, but the result seemed the least important feature of the evening. J. D. Gallagher and Mrs. P. O'Connell (Thorndale) and G. Buckley and G. Rawsthorne (Claremont) impressed particularly.

Victory S. v. St. Joseph's: Without W. Postlethwaite, their No. 1, the Saints found Victory Social too strong for them and suffered their first defeat in two seasons. The winners No. 3, C. Wootton, won both his set in two straight for the second week in succession.

## 100 PER CENT

Undeclared to date is E. Smith, of Bronze Sports, the outstanding member of last season's West Region team. Ted has a remarkable turn of speed for one who is no lightweight and combines a powerful forehand drive with a solid defence.

Since they began their coaching scheme the style of the Creep Inn players has improved tremendously, and John and Sheila Langley must feel very satisfied with the progress the club has made since 1946. The first team has yet to collect a point, but their opening programme was a tough one, and to take three sets from Thorndale was no mean feat.

Claremont v. Birkenhead Juniors: Mr. Dudlestone was looking very pleased with his team at this match. The Y.M.C.A. lads found the floor surface rather tricky and had some anxious moments before running out winners 6-4.

Wallasey Motors v. Birkenhead Co-op: Only 22 points separated the teams in a drawn match, which ran to

26 games. M. R. Phillips found W. Lowe, the Co-op. star, too strong, but just got home against N. Cheshire 21-15, 19-21, 22-20. R. Kirk took one set and gave one, but W. A. Brown lost to C. A. Grice and T. Gibbons.

## SURPRISE TEAM

Although at the moment Cosco, Burrowdale, and St. Peter's are in the lead in the Second Division there is nothing to choose between the first seven teams and there are plenty of needle matches in prospect from now to Christmas.

St. Peter's made a flying start, which reminds me that Tom Buckley, at the youth tournament last spring, tipped them as one of this season's surprise teams. His confidence seems justified, especially as they are now playing in a higher division.

Wallasey Motors "A" have gained as many points already as they amassed all last season. They haven't won many matches in the past, but one thing they have never lost is their sense of humour. This may well be their year if they can avoid too many changes in their present team built around M. Shelley, Miss A. Courtney, J. Woods, and Miss J. Carroll.

Burrowdale "B" v. Creep Inn "B": Match drawn, thanks to home wins by Mrs. C. E. Jones (2), V. Popham (2), and Mrs. P. Savage, who just failed also to win her second-half set. Creep Inn successes were by A. Bowe (2), H. Williams (1), and R. Boumphrey (2), who already had a win against D. Lind Claremont "A" to his credit.

It was touch and go at Manor Road when J. O'Dwyer (Thorndale "B") just beat Miss P. Comer (Wallasey Juniors "B") 21-19 in the third to give his side a point, while against Prenton Methodist, J. Barnes and E. Phillips (Port Sunlight "A") also just piped A. W. Otter and N. Campbell 21-19 in the third to force a draw.

In the four divisions 25 players have played in every match without conceding a set. The closest fight to date was between R. Kirk (Wallasey Motors) and T. Morton (Wallasey Juniors "A") and ended 19-21, 22-20, 25-25.

## Hyde Cup Successes For Region

The preliminary round of the Readman Cup produced no surprises. We took a thrashing, but then, we fully expected to. The Region gave of its best, and as far as I am concerned that's all that matters.

The Hyde Cup is a different proposition, for we came out of the first round in grand style. Bad luck in the draw meant that eight East Region teams had to play each other, so that eliminated four straight away. Out of 17 starters 10 teams are still in the running, eight of which have got byes to the third round.

The fact that this trophy has been won by the West Region over a period of years, makes me all the more keen to see it come to this Region for a change. I am hoping that all concerned will make a special effort, so good hunting!

### NO DISGRACE

Oakhill C., minus one player, had a stern task when they entertained Anfield "B" in the first round of the Hyde Cup. The fact that they suffered an 8-2 defeat was no disgrace, for, despite the handicap of a missing player, they made a fight of it.

Les Wright was a grand leader for Oakhill. He attacked and defended in as neat a style as one could hope to see. Norman Hoyer at No. 2 relied mainly on a backhand drive that was lethal, but not as consistent as it might be. He and Les Wright won the only two games by defeating Alf. Leatham.

Jack Murphy, a very energetic player, led the Anfielders with great gusto, ably supported by Jack Hughes and Eric Fletcher. Beryl Ward, making her second appearance with the team, gave a brilliant display of defence in withstanding some fiery drives from Oakhill's Ethel Davis, and believe me, Ethel can hit hard.

Ruth Jacobsen, also of Oakhill, stood a good chance of winning. She was very enthusiastic, but her desire to attack the whole time inevitably led to trouble, and she lost many points through going forward to try and drive a ball that was falling very short.

East Wavertree got an easy passage

to the second round of the Hyde Cup, by defeating Claremont "B," 10-0. Leading the attack for Wavertree was Alec. Field, and he was in fine form. His hitting had plenty of sting, and on the few occasions when he was forced to retreat, his defence would have discouraged any opponent. Those of us who have had the pleasure of playing against Alec will regret to learn that, due to business commitments in Africa, he will be leaving us next February.

No. 2 for Wavertree was Keith Sharples, and in doing a Jekyll and Hyde act, had me completely deceived. In a game that was notable for its lack of action, Keith, very subdued, just plodded along, taking his points as they came.

Surprises followed, for in his second game he came to life with an attack from both sides of the table that was first rate.

Frank Simpson and Alan Johnston were all competent in all they did, while Alan Spring (brought in at the last moment) did his share in making this a clean sweep.

### NO WEAKNESS

I had the opportunity of seeing Edwardians "A" in action recently, and, despite their low position in the League table, they are a force to be reckoned with. There are no weak links in the side, and they all believe in hitting hard and often. This applies especially to John McQuaid—when he hits that ball, boy, oh boy, you can hardly see it go.

I like also the match temperament of Peter Goodall, for when an opponent delivers such lucky shots as table edges and not cords against him, Peter acknowledge them with a good-natured chuckle and a word of congratulation. This is the spirit that we want in this region.

### THIS MONTH'S STORIES

The doctor who recently said that there is nothing so dangerous as mixed drinks cannot have tried "Mixed Doubles."

At one club recently one of the outstanding players was missing. It is believed he was secretly trying out the new "Health Service."

## Lucem's Championship Bid

Let us examine the prospects of the two divisions in our region in the light of the matches that have been played.

In Division 1, it is still too early to prophesy who will be the champions, but Lucem, Wavertree C.C. "A," and Liverpool Y.M. continue to register convincing wins. It should be interesting to see what happens when these teams are drawn one against the other. Already, Elm Hall Drive, who looked like being possible champions last month have been decisively defeated by Lucem, who also scored a 10-0 victory over Aigburth Methodists last month.

Although the standard of the best teams in this division is high, those in the lower half are not in the same class. This is due to the shortage of really promising young players.

### PROMISING YOUNG PLAYER

In Division 2, the championship is even more in the balance, many of the teams being of similar strength. This is evidenced in the fact that the match between Livex "A" and Lucem "A," two of the top five teams, resulted in a draw. The other three teams, which all have decisive victories to their credit, are Dunlops, Liverpool Y.M.C.A. "A," and Cadwa "A."

One promising young player in this division is 15-year-old D. Rodrigues, No. 3 for Y.M.C.A. "A." At present he is rather erratic, but he has good

style and tactics. With more experience, he should prove a valuable asset to the region in the future.

In the "Evening Chronicle" elimination tournament, Miss M. Rubert, holder of the South Regional Women's Singles Championship, reached the semi-final only to lose to Mrs. A. Ashton. Audrey Richards, who sometimes plays for Aigburth "C" in the South Region, lost to Miss Rubert in the third round, after a keenly-contested match.

Several South Region teams are competing for the Readman Cup, and it will be interesting to watch their progress this month.

In conclusion, I hear from Don Brown, that arrangements for the second South Regional Tournament, to be held in January, are well in hand. May it be even more successful than the first.

### MISTY OUTLOOK

Those of us who wear glasses know how annoying it is to find them steaming over during play. This usually happens about 10-all in the third and can be very distracting. After all it isn't easy to be optimistic with a misty optic! I am told that polishing the lenses with a spot of paraffin will do the trick. Does anyone know of a better remedy?  
N.H.H.

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## Hoylake At The Top

Well lads and lassies, the season is now in full swing, just as your foreband should be.

Hoylake Y.M.C.A., showing vast improvement since I saw them last year, are setting the pace. In their game against Rock Ferry St. Annes, they played some high-class table tennis, and, although losing the match, gave a far better display than I have seen from many regional teams.

Also impressive, to my mind, was the good grace with which they took this defeat. It is easy to smile and be courteous when things are going your way. It is rather a different matter, however, when the chips are stacked against you.

### POINTS THROWN AWAY

Would that I could write so optimistically of Rock Ferry St. Annes, who have figured prominently in the honours battle in the last two seasons. With the same players available, one would suppose that they would again be to the fore. Indeed, their victory over Hoylake was accomplished minus two of their regulars. Sad then that this fine team should throw away six points by failing to fulfil three fixtures.

A great "Derby" game will be witnessed between the first and second teams of Birkenhead Boys' Club. Too bad that we must go to press before this tit-bit can be reported, but whatever the result (it's no certainty either way), we can be assured of a good, clean struggle, true to the traditions so ably fostered by Mr. Len Jones and company.

Convention of Youth have got off on the wrong foot and are finding "the going" pretty tough, but if medals were given for trying they would be right at the front of the queue.

Our three newcomers, Ashville, Greasby and Woodchurch are all meeting with mixed fortunes. Greasby made a fair start, but have since faltered, their luck being out when going under 4-6 to Woodchurch. The latter, by contrast, after crashing to Birkenhead B.C., in their opening fixture, are now among the points with a walk-over from St. Annes.

Ashville, having succumbed to

Hoylake in their first match (a tense struggle this) obtained some consolation at the expense of Convention of Youth. Being new to competitive play, it follows quite naturally that these sides will be feeling their way for a while. But watch Ashville!

Heswall Nautical School are finding their rather out of the way position a decided handicap to the fulfilment of fixtures. Already they have been concerned in two "walk-overs"—one for and one against. A pity this, because there is some useful talent among these lads.

Old faithfuls, "The Shafts," are in the thick of the fray again. I always have the idea when watching "Mr. Young's boys," that with a little more "devil" in their games, they could go places. Some organized practice with a couple of the "older hands" to iron out the major faults, and this team could take on the best.

We are sorry to announce that Mr. Derek Holland has been compelled to resign from the Management Committee as Youths Division Secretary, owing to business reasons. Mr. McGenity has an unrivalled knowledge of our youth clubs and we hope to have further interesting articles from his pen.

## Mr. T. G. Brandreth

At the League dinner to the President the absence of Mr. T. G. Brandreth, our former chairman, led to many inquiries.

All members of the League will regret to hear that for several months Mr. Brandreth has been in poor health, which has necessitated his retirement from business, and his absence from all his well-loved sporting interests. To miss his sport has been most irksome to him, but his keenness remains a lively as ever.

We sincerely hope it will not be long before he is restored to his old self.

J. H. C. Hughes.

# Begin Your Game Right

The hints this month are devoted to the service, a matter which is still causing players a lot of trouble. All readers will find something to learn from this article, but remember, all instructions are for a right-handed player.

Hand flat, fingers straight, ball in flat of hand, not on fingers. Throw up vertical, then serve as follows—

On forehand side.

Body position—Left shoulder towards the net body facing  $\frac{3}{4}$  to table, feet about 12 inch apart making an angle of about 60 degrees with baseline of table.

1.—Topspin the ball across the table diagonally from corner to corner. This is done by sweeping the bat towards the ball and striking it over the top with the bat tilted forward slightly.

2.—Topspin the ball straight down side of table.

3.—Short one over the net to opponent's forehand.

On backhand side.

Body position. — Right shoulder towards net body facing  $\frac{3}{4}$  to table, right foot forward.

1.—Topspin from backhand side diagonally across the table, by striking the ball with an up and forward movement with bat inclined slightly down on the ball.

2.—Topspin serve down side of table.

3.—Topspin serve at opponent's body.

4.—Very short and low over the net.

This is done by having the bat underneath the ball and tilted upwards and towards the net so as to receive the ball as it comes down from the vertical throw up. Just enough movement of the bat is made for the ball to bounce both sides of the net.

Vary spin, speed, bounce, and direction for each service.

## PRACTICE

The only way to improve is to practice conscientiously.

Always play under good conditions.

Devote three or four days a week of 1½ hours with a player of higher standard.

Practice one shot only until it is done instinctively, it may take two or

three weeks or longer.

Only then attempt another shot.

## Evening Chronicle Tournament

A service is a good one if your opponent has to move his feet to return it.

The "Evening Chronicle" Tournament this year has been organised on different lines. Instead of players arranging their meetings privately, the various zones play off on one day at a single venue. The winners of each zone will play off the remaining rounds up to the finals at Manchester on Saturday, with the finals at Belle Vue on December 4, in conjunction with an international invitation tournament. If there is a sufficient demand the League will run a special bus. Contact the League Secretary.

The Liverpool section was played at Cadwa when 55 men and 20 women entered, the largest ever made in one district since the competition started in 1935.

The four men who won through to the latter rounds were: R. Royle (Oakhill), W. Dignan (Cheshire Lines), M. Oakes (Oakhill), and J. Watts (15th Crosby).

Watts, a seasoned campaigner, was never fully extended, apart from a stern encounter with E. Davies (Dunlop), but Dignan had a hectic fight in his last match against K. Pemberton before winning 21-18 in the third game. Oakes, a much improved player, beat some very useful opponents, and Boyle also displayed good form.

The two ladies to pass through were A. Jones (Homecroft) and A. Ashton (St. Helens). For a brief spell it seemed there might be a major sensation, as in an early round, B. Ward (Anfield) played excellently against Andree Jones and took the first game. In the end, however, experience told.

A. Ashton, who played at one time for a Liverpool club, was very steady and her defensive play was too much for her various opponents.

The conditions of play, and the general organisation at Cadwa, were extremely good, and for this much credit must go to Mr. and Mrs. Scraggs.

## Pen Personalities

Mrs. J. Womphrey

One of our outstanding personalities is undoubtedly Mrs. Womphrey, better known as "Womph," who has been connected with the League for 23 years.

Commencing with Birkenhead Co-op., she later moved to Bootle, and it was there that her game fully developed. The Ladies' representative for ten years, she helped to form the Women's Division in 1937, and one of her most enjoyable experiences was when acting as hostess to all the Continental entrants when the English Open was held in Liverpool in 1935.

Other official positions have been Ladies' Representative for the North of England, and President of the Pontefract T.T.L.

More recently she has been the guiding light of Anfield Ladies, who, as a result, are playing this season in the First Division for the first time.

"Womph" has not confined her activities to table tennis, as she has achieved fame in musical circles, and has in her time conducted both a male voice choir and an orchestra!

### SID JACKSON

To Sid Jackson, most appropriately, fell the honour of making the presentation to the League's President at the recent celebration dinner. One of the oldest serving members, Sid has been connected with the League since 1930. Although never an outstanding player, he gave stalwart service in those days to North Liverpool and later to St. Simon's (now Anfield).

It is as a member of the Committee that Sid Jackson has served the League most faithfully. He has the unique record of continuous committee service for 20 years, and his experience and outspoken views have been of tremendous value.

Not least of his invaluable services is that of being responsible for the lighting of tables, etc., at the various tournaments.

The League owes a great debt to this experienced member, who has given so much help during the past two decades.

J. D. L.

## Shorts v. Slacks

### Battle

By Moya.

A fierce little storm is brewing up in the E.T.T.A.'s teacup on the question of uniformity of dress for men, a kind of shorts versus slacks battle.

Those against the less cumbersome shorts say that nothing looks quite so bad in a tournament or international match than to see doubles partners in the opposing dress—one in shorts and the other in slacks.

I quite agree, a team should all be dressed alike, but as the majority of tournaments and big matches are held in heated halls, which invariably become warmer as the evening wears on, shorts would appear to be a good answer.

On the other hand there is nothing worse than trying to play table tennis feeling half frozen, and as most of our League clubrooms are on the cold side, for personal comfort as well as good play, slacks here seem to have the advantage.

Another argument, which the opponents of shorts put forward, is that there are few men who look their best in them, especially when worn with socks. Apparently that is one point on which we women score heavily.

Anyway, don't you think it is all a matter of tradition, just as in lawn tennis the American fashion of wearing shorts at Wimbledon has now spread until more men now wear shorts than long flannels.

Incidentally, have you noted the rule on the back of your entry form for the Merseyside Open? There it stipulates that whether slacks or shorts are worn they must be grey. Grey shorts! I have not seen many, principally khaki ones.

### ADVERTISEMENT RATES

The Table Tennis Digest will accept small classified advertisements at the following rates: — 3d. per word, minimum 18 words, per issue.

# These Are Your Letters

## Organised Practice?

Sir,—I would like to make a suggestion for improving the standard of play on Merseyside. Enthusiasm for the game is evident to all, but it may be wasted if not directed into the right channels.

Individual players are keen enough, but too many lack opportunity for practice; others just do not know how to practice. Club officials may be at fault here—remember how the League's proposal for a League clubroom was turned down.

I suggest the Management Committee could help in this matter by organising proper and purposeful practice. Possibly they could borrow a clubroom for one night each week in every division and invite one member of each team to attend, the choice to be made by secretaries.

If this idea is too difficult, perhaps it could be tried in one or two of the divisions. I know there are snags to the idea, but as the possibility of a League clubroom seems, for the time being, out of the question, it may stimulate suggestions from which something concrete might arise.—Yours, V. J. CHESHAM (Raffers).

Note.—Vic Chesham, of course, answers himself. With League Headquarters it would be simple, but to borrow clubrooms weekly is wellnigh impossible, unfortunately. But his idea of "proper and purposeful" practice is good.—Editors.

## In Defence of the Ladies

Sir,—Why was the article by Moya addressed mainly to the ladies of our League? The worst offenders in this direction are, by far, the male members.

No, the ladies are not the guilty ones. Go to any local tournament or match for proof of this. The menfolk—oh dear—dirty shoes, dirty creaseless flannels, and, worst of all, multi-coloured braces displayed for all to see.

Nowadays it is not always possible

to appear wearing new outfits, but it is surely within their means to keep shoes white and trousers pressed. Our male members would do well to emulate Barna and Leach in this matter as well as in actual play.

It is not my intention to start a sex war, but let's hope that by the time we hold our next tournament that the menfolk will be as much a credit to the League as are the ladies.—JENNY ROBERTS (Acacia).

Note.—I thoroughly agree with you, Mrs. Roberts, and had intended to pull the men's appearance to pieces in this issue, but you have done it for me. If I had the power, I would be tyrant enough to ban altogether playing in braces.—MOYA.

## Cup Complaint

Sir,—I would like to make use of our new magazine to voice a grouse.

According to the rules of the cup competitions, the home secretary is supposed to notify his opponents of the day and place the match will take place.

We have been unfortunate enough to get drawn away three times, yet only once have I been notified about the match.

This, to my mind, is a disgraceful state of affairs, and proves that secretaries do not read the rules as laid out in the handbook.

May I suggest that there is one remedy which would rectify this spirit of laziness—namely, to award the match to the away team in the event of their not receiving notice of the match at least seven days before the proposed date.

This may seem a drastic penalty, but I am confident that after one or two applications, the rule would not be needed again!—N. COOKE (Secretary, Bath Street).

Note.—It appears that Cup Rule No. 2 is being overlooked by more than one club, as this is not the only case to come to our notice this season.—Editors.