

TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

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COMMENT

A recent check-up has revealed the fact that in a small number of cases clubs are offending against Rule 23c by allowing players to appear for a lower side than the one for which they are officially registered. Considering the size of the League and the number of new clubs appearing each season, it is quite remarkable how few are the offences, but it might be as well if those clubs with a number of sides kept a closer check to make sure that the Rule was not being broken.

One case already considered by the Management has resulted in a club forfeiting a point, and it must be realised that sooner or later other defaulters will suffer in the same way.

The growth of the League during the post-war years has been quite phenomenal, and already at this early stage there are, we understand, a large number of clubs waiting to apply for membership for 1951-52.

No one can say when this expansion will come to an end, it certainly shows no sign at the moment, but there is a danger that the League is going to become unwieldy in the next year or two as new divisions are formed.

We would like to offer two suggestions for this problem. Firstly, a return is made to the old twelve clubs in a division, which would mean five divisions for every six at present in existence. The consequent extension of the season by four weeks will only be a return to the practice of previous seasons, and, incidentally, would bring us into line with the majority of Leagues.

Secondly, a very bad bottle-neck has already developed in Cheshire, where, according to the Rules, one club is promoted to every three from the Liverpool side, although they have four divisions to Liverpool's five. This is obviously unfair. Would it not be better if the West Region was split into West-Birkenhead and West-Wallasèy, each with its own Regional Secretary and each participating in the inter-regional tournament?

We invite comment on this matter, for clearly it is a controversial issue which all may not agree.

English - Irish Stars At "Phil."

England play Ireland on Friday, February 9, with Liverpool as the venue. We are staging it at the Philharmonic Hall, and it would be hard to find a better setting for what promises to be one of the most interesting matches of the series, as England are "fielding" their strongest team, who will need to go all out against the Irishmen, whose recent successes leads one to the conclusion that "they are going places."

The England team is Johnny Leach, Aubrey Simons, Brian Kennedy, Ronnie Allcock, and the Misses Peggy Franks and Adele Wood, while Ireland will be selected from the following:—Victor Mercer, Ivan Martin, S. Clerkin, J. Fox, H. O'Prey, J. Christie, and the Misses H. Agnew, F. Dawkins, and C. A. Egan.

Leach, Simons, and Kennedy have been invited to represent England in the Swaythling Cup in Vienna early in March, but there are still vacancies to be filled in both the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup teams, and the English Selection Committee will be present at the Philharmonic, together with the "Cabinet" of the E.T.T.A., as there is to be a meeting of the National Executive on Saturday morning.

THE PLAYERS

Here are a few brief details of the teams:—



JOHNNY LEACH, who hopes to regain the World Championship title he held last year, has just won the French Singles title in Paris. Travels

to the United States after the World Championships at Vienna to defend his three American titles.

AUBREY SIMONS lost to Johnny here in the final of the Merseyside, and again in the French Championships, after defeating Guy Amouretti in the semi-final.

BRIAN KENNEDY (Yorkshire) played his first International against Ireland in March, 1948, in Dublin, when only 16. Now in the R.A.F. he played himself into the Swaythling Cup team by his outstanding performance in the English Open at Wembley in December, when he beat Simons in the fifth game in the semi-final, and then lost to A. Erlich. He had previously beaten H. T. Venner, R. A. Miller, and M. Haguenaour.

RON ALLCOCK (Lancashire) received his first International honours against Ireland at Belfast last year, and is the holder of the Pontefract open, when he defeated Brian Kennedy in the final. He is a hard-hitting attacking player, and on his day almost unplayable.

PEGGY FRANKS is ranked No. 1 in England, whom she has represented on many occasions. Holds the Belgian Mixed title with Leach, and lost to Miss G. Pritzi in the Women's Singles in December.

ADELE WOOD (Lancashire) was in last year's Corbillon Cup team and may even yet be chosen this year. Won all three titles in the recent Manchester Closed (the Mixed with Ron Allcock), and holds the following Women's Singles titles—Lancashire, North of England, Yorkshire, and Pontefract. Is playing very confidently at the moment.

BEAT REISMAN

Ireland will probably be led by **VICTOR MERCER** (Ulster). Left-hander, with a strong defence, holds the Ulster title, and added to his reputation when he defeated Marty Reisman in the semi-final of the Leinster Open last month, but lost to Guy Amouretti in the final. With J. J. Burns won the Men's Doubles, defeating Reisman and Amouretti in the semi-final.

IVAN MARTIN (Ulster). Strong attacking player. His latest successes

Challenge To Leaders Fading

Reviewing the play and results of the First Division, I am forced to the conclusion that the standard of play is not showing the progress which can be seen in the lower divisions and regions.

At the start of the season I was of the opinion that there would be a close struggle for the leading positions, but from a glance at the table it would appear that the only challengers to Balfour are Homecroft and Rafter's, Crosby Scouts are no longer a team to be feared, and Rafter's "A" would appear to be a bit too far behind to be any menace to the leaders.

NEW HOPE

Balfour have maintained their lead at the top of the division, and are three points ahead of Rafter's, while down at the other end, African Oil have climbed above Anfield. African Oil obtained the necessary points to top this at the expense of the weakened Crosby Scouts, their win by 7-3 giving them new hopes concerning their relegation battle.

To complete their fixtures for 1950 they played the outstanding fixture with Balfour on December 28, and although the result was an 8-2 win for Balfour, there was considerable tension until well after the half-way stage.

An opening win for J. Coveney over Les. Davies put new life into a team which considers that fortune has not been kind to them this season. A very hard struggle between F. Varty and Reg. Hetherington ended with the latter levelling the score at one all. The next two sets were shared, and then Balfour took the lead at 3-2. That was the end so far as African Oil were concerned, but there were several very close games, and had Bell been playing more like his normal form, the result might have been closer still.

The main interest since the holidays has, of course, been centred on the third round of the Readman Cup. Balfour "A" were held to a draw at the first meeting by Wallasey Juniors. It was an excellent match, and showed the Juniors as a well-balanced team with excellent prospects.

But cup-ties are unpredictable things and it was a different story in the replay at Wallasey, for Balfour "A" came away with a 10-0 win to put them into the fourth round, and so meet their own senior side.

The outstanding tie of the round was between Rafter's and Rafter's "A," but unfortunately the flu hit the "A" team badly, and three reserves, in the form of Ronnie Runjahn and the May twins, deputised for Ted Runjahn, Vic. Ciesham, and D. Holland. Rafter's won eventually 7-3, but the match was closer than the score indicates. For Rafter's, E. Caird was in excellent form.

My hope for a final tie is Rafter's and Balfour, but one never knows in a cup-tie.

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were wins over R. Crayden and K. Craigie (English Internationals) in the semi-final and final of the County Antrim Open, thus retaining his title.

S. CLERKIN (Leinster). Young player of considerable ability, who has this season beaten Mercer, Martin, and Fox, and only narrowly lost to O'Prey.

J. FOX (Ulster). Natural attacking player, extended Craigie to five games in the semi-final of the County Antrim Open.

Miss H. AGNEW (Ulster). Past holder of Ulster Open and Irish Closed titles.

Miss F. DAWKINS (Munster). Irish closed title-holder. Has useful, quick attack.

Miss C. A. EGAN (Leinster). Holder of Ulster and Leinster Open titles. Has a good defence.

A word about the booking arrangements. You will find on referring to the inside back cover that the prices of admission are the same as at the Merseyside, and as on previous occasions a poster has been sent to your club secretary, together with a card on which he can enter your requirements should you wish to make up a party from your club. Will you also once again bring along your relations and friends and support us like you did in November?

We have a reputation second to none throughout the country for the staging and supporting of big events. The former is being taken care of—the latter is in your hands. Get in touch with your Secretary as soon as possible so that you will be assured of the best seats at whatever price you wish to pay.

Looking At The Youth Allied To Leaders Experience

By K. Baldock.

This month I will try to analyse the leaders of our division—Bibby's, who have led from the start and already look like being champions, and Homecroft "A," a strong side anxious to join their first team in the premier division.

Bibby's would not disgrace themselves in Division I, as they have a good all-round side, and each player is equal to his position in the team. Their playing strength has centred round eight players, of whom C. Smith and S. Wooding have appeared each week.

The former told me of a very good game they played against Bootle Y.M.C.A. last October.

The friendliness of the Bootle players, together with a close game, provided a good evening's entertainment. I notice that though Bibby's won 8-2, six sets were won in the third game and that in three of them on points the losing player should have won.

FOUR DEUCE GAMES

Their first and tenth games of the season were against Oakhill "A," who do not appear to be the power they were. In the first game at Oakhill, Bibby's appeared to have no trouble in gaining an 8-2 decision, as only the set between the two No. 1's went to a third game. However, the return match, although the score was 9-1, was very close. Six sets were decided in the third game, four games decided after deuce, and two sets finished level on points, one of which was Oakhill's consolation prize.

Homecroft "A" came down from Division 1 last season and are likely to return at their first attempt. Another team who give as much as they receive, no doubt helped by having three of eight players appearing regularly.

Unlike Bibby's contrasting games against Oakhill, Homecroft have had their closest fights against Anfield "A." Each was drawn on sets, but strangely enough the points were so close in eleven of them, which needed a third game to decide, that the result should have been 6-4 each time in the home team's favour.

I do not think this team will be dropping many more points.

Chief interest and topic of the moment is the Maxwell Fyfe Cup, but as you read this the first round will have been played. We cannot complain as a division of cup luck, for in Round 1 we had five home ties and two ties, which should ensure a good representation in the last 16.

Although we hardly expect to have the Readman Cup winner in our ranks we had five survivors in Round 3 and of these Bohemians and Victoria Park battled their way against strong opposition to Round 4.

Bohemians, riding the crest of a wave, are introduced this month. Newly joining our division this season I do not think they will be long in our division, for they are the team of the season.

Those who have already visited Bohs. will agree that the table and the team need a lot of beating; in fact, they play a first-class game without indulging in safety-first and "win-at-all-costs" tactics. It is, indeed, a pleasure to play against them. Still very much interested in the Readman Cup, we expect them to do the division proud in both this and the Maxwell Fyfe Cup.

GIVE NOTHING AWAY.

The side is skipped by Ken Jones, formerly of Fairlawn, whom you have already read about in an earlier issue. The giant of the side is D. Young, 6ft. 3ins., and with but a solitary defeat to-date in all his matches. A. Rycroft and R. Keddie, playing Nos. 1 and 2, give nothing away, and these four are ably assisted by M. Derbyshire, the youngest of the five.

The team's average age is 27, which ensures sufficient experience and means they still retain the dash of youth.

The league's main point of interest has been the intensifying of the struggle by the bottom dogs. Wavertree have lifted themselves at the expense of Rafters, while Westfield have also added to their points total. I learn that Alf. Green, of Westfield, who has lost only four sets so far this season, is shortly to emigrate to New Zealand. Westfield will miss him,

Bouquet of the month goes to the Wavertree Community "regular," who broke his "duck" by winning his first league set against Westfield.

Saints Strong Challenge

By J. Griffiths.

With the season now half over Kingsway have taken over the leadership of the division with a sets advantage over Balfour "B," but St. Michael's are close on their heels, only a point behind and a match in hand.

Two players were presented with Christmas boxes they did not want, their first defeat of the season. E. Davies (Dunlop) defeated G. Gowar (St. Michael's) in two straights, but the following week Davies had his colours lowered by R. Burge (Cheshire Lines) after three exciting games.

With the defeat of Kingsway, St. Michael's are now the only unbeaten team in the division, while at the other end Aighburth "A" are the only team without a point.

Kingsway's first defeat by 6-4 at the hands of Balfour "R" was an even greater surprise as Balfour, with a couple of players down with influenza, had to call on their reserves, one of whom, Mrs. Olive Dickinson, won both her sets.

HARD GOING.

Aighburth "A" are finding it very hard going in this division. They were no match for Cheshire Lines and went down by nine sets to one, their only success being obtained by J. Ramsay. With the return of Ray White to their side, maybe their luck will change, but they will have to fight hard to avoid returning to the South Region next season.

Edwardions had high hopes of gaining their first success of the season when they had Holme Hey as visitors. After being two down they fought back extremely well to take an interval lead of 4-2, but again found themselves down 5-4, and it was left to their No. 5, F. Shaughnessy, to beat Pauline Fitzpatrick in two straights and give them a point.

Waterloo Dock improved their league position by defeating Dunlop 7-3. Jim Seddon, their No. 1, was again in excellent form, beating both Davies and Ellis. Port Sunlight Old Boys seem to be enjoying much better success than was expected when the season opened. With ten points out of sixteen they can still be among the honours when the season ends.

New Zealander's Tribute

The following are extracts from a letter sent to the League Secretary, Mr. W. Stamp, by Jack Borough, captain of the three New Zealand players who took part in the Mersey-side tournament in November.

"Words cannot express our gratitude to you and your most efficient committee for the hospitality shown to us during our stay. Your helpfulness and consideration were simply overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

"We found the tables very fast by New Zealand standards, but very good to play on. The lighting was excellent. In New Zealand the tables are cheaply produced and nowhere near the standard achieved in England. They tend to produce a very low and "dead" bounce, making excessive topspin necessary to attack with any certainty. After our experience in this country, however, we realise that attack is still the best defence.

MARVELLOUS SETTING

"The championships gave us some points which should be of great value to the game in New Zealand. The finals at the Liverpool Philharmonic produced the finest table tennis we have yet seen. This was probably due to the marvellous setting which is admirably suited for table tennis. I think you could almost hear a pin drop.

"One of the highlights of our trip was our visit to your Cathedral. We were greatly impressed with the magnificence of it, for we had not seen anything comparable to it before. The Mersey Tunnel was also a unique sight.

"Through the medium of your magazine would you please convey our kindest regards to everybody we met in L'pool. We are especially indebted to Mr. Montgomery and the Rumjahn family, while a special word of praise is due to Mrs. Stamp, who made such an excellent job of the refreshments. But most of all, Mr. Stamp, we are indebted to you yourself."

OFFICIAL UMPIRES

Congratulations to Messrs. Fred Farrell and George Williams who have passed the examinations under the E.T.T.A.'s new umpire scheme and have been appointed official county umpires.

First Win By Liverpool "A"

By F. J. Farrell,

Due to the Christmas holidays there has been a lull in the Lancashire League fixtures and only a few games have taken place.

Results of the recent matches are as follows:—

Blackpool 1, Liverpool "A" 9.
Liverpool "B" 4, Manchester "B" 6.
Liverpool "B" 6, St. Helens 4.
Crewe Ladies 1, Liverpool Ladies 9.

At Blackpool the "A" team scored their first win of the season by disposing of a weak team. The Liverpool side on this occasion was P. Rumjahn, N. R. Jones, and D. Caldwell.

The "B" team suffered their first defeat in a closely-fought game with Manchester. Set-winners were M. Oakes (2), Roy Jones, and A. Lawson. Lawson, who was playing in his first representative game, took a little time to settle down, but he brought off a very fine win against Ingber, who is in the running for junior international honours.

OVERCAME FOG

It is a tribute to the perseverance of table tennis players that the match against St. Helens was played. Both home and away teams struggled through a dense fog to the venue, and in spite of everything the match was started before 8 o'clock.

Oakes was delayed by the fog and D. Caldwell played in his place, but he was able to play in the doubles match with N. Jones. The set-winners were N. Jones and A. Lawson (2 each), D. Caldwell and Jones and Oakes in the doubles. The outstanding player for St. Helens was A. Ellison, who won all three of his games.

Forthcoming matches:—

Jan. 24.—Bolton "B" v. L'pool "A."
26.—Elles. Pt. "A" v. L'pool "B."
31.—Urmston v. Liverpool "B."

Magistrate: "Then you say this man was drunk?"

Policeman: "I do not sir. I simply say that he sat in his car for three hours in front of an excavation, waiting for the light to turn green."

Why Rule Was Changed

We have received the following letter from the Organising Secretary of the League:—

I would like to point out to the critics of the present service rule, that the main object behind the change was to protect the average player against the "smart alocs." who were expert in finger and knuckle spin, and were fast reducing the game to the farcical.

There are always people who resent changes, and often their criticism is destructive and not constructive. If you can put forward any good reasons why we should go back to the old days of spin, let us hear about it and it will be forwarded to the right quarter.

This change of rule was made after prolonged consideration by the International Table Tennis Federation, which consists of the association of 41 nations, who govern and uphold the laws of table tennis. The English Association are leading members of the I.T.T.F., and we, as affiliated members of the E.T.T.A., have to abide by their decisions. So do not start clamouring for the heads of your Management Committee because we are endeavouring to see that the rule is operated correctly.

CHEATING

When the offside rule was changed in football many years ago, the referee and players did not ignore the F.A. and play to the old rule, and if umpires and players flagrantly ignore the new rule are cheating.

There are many players who are serving correctly, to those who are not. I suggest they make a New Year resolution to observe the rule, because I can assure you that the Management Committee have made a resolution to see that it is operated correctly. To all umpires, at league matches or tournaments I would say, warn the player the first time he foul serves and then award the point to his or her opponent for every subsequent offence. This is the most effective way, and although you may receive a few black looks you will at least earn their respect.—W. Stamp.

Reply To Headquarters Critics

In the following article Mr. W. Stamp, the Organising Secretary, replies to critics of the League Headquarters Scheme.

I am afraid that Eric Caird's memory "serves him wrong" regarding the proposed headquarters, as the £600 per year was for rent, rates, light and part-time staff, while the necessary renovation was to be carried out by the owners before we took possession.

To meet the outgoing the League members were asked to alter the rule and pay 12s per year registration fee, which was payable in six monthly instalments of 2s (October to March), but the H.Q. were to be open all the year round so that the cost per member was 3d per week. This proposition was actually passed at the A.G.M. in 1947 by a simple majority, which was insufficient, as a two-thirds majority is required under Rule 35.

The H.Q. Fund stood at £152 and not £32 as stated, which was ample to have furnished the premises with eight Jaques tournament tables, and all the other necessities, as I had obtained advantageous terms for everything we required. There was room for a cafe, capable of seating 40 to 50, at small tables; a room to take one table where coaching classes were to be held three or four times a week.

TAKING LONG VIEW

We were not trying to run before we could walk; our trouble was the people suffering from cold feet and also unable to see further than the end of their noses. I just don't believe Mr. Cameron's statement that 75 per cent. of our players are against paying a penny to subscribe to a headquarters, which could have been used at lunch-time, or for players unable to go home in the evening before an away match; apart from other times, when their own club was not available (and quite a number are only open once or twice a week for T.T.), coaching schemes, inter-city matches, and management and general meetings.

All tournaments could have been held there, and it would have been a rendezvous for all players, for the premises were two minutes' walk from Dale Street. Clubs were being safeguarded because the H.Q. would have

been available only to players registered with our own league clubs—all for three-pence per week.

My answer to the forecast of wholesale resignations, is to point out that this argument was used to me about the increase in the registration fees to cover the cost of this magazine, when in actual fact our registrations have increased and we have not enough handbooks to satisfy the demand.

UP TO MEMBERS

I can assure those people who are fearful of what the future may hold, that neither the Management Committee nor myself have the slightest intention of embarking on any scheme of this kind—the next move must come from the members themselves, but in the meantime it is only right that you should know the true facts about what happened four years ago, and that the Management Committee of that day had given serious thought and consideration to a project that would have undoubtedly raised the standard of play and enabled Liverpool and district to progress instead of just marking time.—W. Stamp.

TYPICAL ATTITUDE

Sir,—I was not in the least surprised to read in your December issue the letter from E. Cameron, of Victoria Park. His attitude is, as he says himself, typical of the great majority of the present day "British sportsmen."

Admitted E. Cameron, at "good club standard," may have attained his best, but there are others, like myself, who attained "good club standard" in our early 'teens, and found great difficulty in improving on that standard because our competition was limited to the "E. Camerons" of our local clubs.

As a result I travelled long distances, with others who had the same difficulty, to find clubs where a better standard of play existed.

I, for one of the supposed 25 per cent. who will approve of a league headquarters, would welcome the opportunity of visiting a headquarters, even if only to watch the supposed "stars v. stars," if, by doing so, I can improve my own standard and one day compete with them.—BILL PIERCE (R.A.F., Malta).

LEAGUE TABLES

First Division						WOMEN—First Division					
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F. A. P.		P.	W.	L.	D.	F. A. P.
Balfour Inst.	10	8	0	2	71 29 8	Balfour	10	10	0	0	84 16 20
Homecroft	10	6	2	2	65 35 14	Rafters	10	9	1	0	82 18 18
Rafters	10	6	3	1	58 42 13	Aigburth	10	7	3	0	62 38 14
15th Crosby	10	5	2	3	50 50 13	Bibby's	10	6	3	1	56 44 13
Rafters "A"	10	4	3	3	58 42 11	Homecroft	10	5	4	1	52 48 11
B'head Y.M.C.A.	10	4	3	3	53 47 11	Bootle C.D.	10	3	6	1	37 63 7
Balfour "A"	10	2	4	4	43 57 8	C.L.C.	10	3	6	1	36 64 7
Oakhill	10	2	6	2	40 60 6	Oakhill	10	3	7	0	37 63 6
African Oil	10	2	8	0	30 70 4	Anfield	10	1	9	0	28 72 2
Anfield	10	0	8	2	32 68 2	Wav. C.C.	10	1	9	0	26 74 2
Second Division						Second Division					
Bibby's	10	9	1	0	70 30 18	Aigburth "A" ...	10	8	2	0	78 22 16
Bootle Y.M.C.A.	11	6	2	3	61 49 15	Rafters "A"	9	7	0	2	65 25 16
Acacia	10	6	2	2	67 33 14	Littlewoods	10	8	2	0	68 31 16
Homecroft "A"	10	6	2	2	63 37 14	Domestic M.	9	6	2	1	62 28 13
B'head Y.M. "A"	11	5	3	3	61 49 13	Mossley Hill	9	4	4	1	48 42 9
Anfield "A"	10	4	3	3	54 46 11	Osterley	9	2	5	2	39 51 6
I.C.I.	10	3	6	1	46 54 7	St. Joseph's	7	2	4	1	23 47 5
Oakhill "A"	10	3	6	1	41 59 7	Littlewoods "A".	8	2	6	0	24 56 4
L.P.A.S.	10	1	8	1	35 65 3	I.C.I.	9	1	7	1	29 61 3
Aigburth	10	0	10	0	12 88 0	Port Sunlight ...	10	0	8	2	13 87 2
Third Division						EAST—First Division					
Bohemians	9	9	0	0	69 21 18	Balfour "C"	9	9	0	0	76 14 18
Wall Juniors	9	7	1	1	66 24 15	Bohemians "A".	8	7	1	0	59 21 14
Hoylake Y.M.	8	7	1	0	60 20 14	Osterley	9	5	2	2	54 36 2
Livex	8	4	2	2	51 29 10	Cadwa	8	4	3	1	46 34 9
Westfield	9	3	6	0	39 51 6	Anfield "B"	9	3	3	3	50 40 9
Victoria Park	8	3	5	0	33 47 6	Taxes	9	3	3	3	44 46 9
Oakhill "B"	8	3	5	0	31 49 6	St. Barts	7	3	3	1	35 35 7
Wavertree C.C.	9	2	6	1	36 54 5	African "A"	7	3	4	0	31 39 6
Domestic Mission	9	1	6	2	24 66 4	Westfield "A" ...	9	0	9	0	15 75 0
Rafters "B"	9	0	7	2	21 69 2	St. Aloysius	9	0	9	0	10 80 0
Fourth Division						Second Division					
Kingsway	9	7	1	1	65 25 15	Balfour "D"	9	8	0	1	63 27 17
Balfour "B"	9	7	1	1	63 27 15	Bohemians "B".	8	6	1	1	49 31 13
St. Michael's	8	6	0	2	63 17 14	East Wavertree	8	5	2	1	49 31 11
C.L.C.	9	6	1	2	54 36 14	N.A.B.U.K.	9	5	3	1	43 47 11
P. Sunlight O.B.	8	5	3	0	45 35 10	Roby Y.C.	7	5	2	0	45 25 0
Dunlop	9	4	3	2	46 44 10	Edwardians "A"	9	3	6	0	38 52 6
Waterloo Dock ...	9	3	6	0	38 52 6	R.A.F.A. (L'pool)	9	2	6	1	41 49 5
Holme Hey	9	1	7	1	25 65 3	Osterley "A"	7	2	5	0	29 41 4
Edwardian	9	0	8	1	25 65 1	Bohemians "C".	8	1	6	1	28 52 3
Aigburth "A"	9	0	9	0	16 74 0	Oakhill "C"	8	1	7	0	25 55 2
SOUTH.—First Division						SOUTH—Second Division					
Lucem	8	8	0	0	71 9 16	Livex "A"	8	7	0	1	67 13 15
Wav. C.C. "A"	9	8	1	0	68 22 16	Cadwa "A"	8	7	1	0	54 26 14
L'pool Y.M.C.A.	9	6	2	1	65 25 13	Lucem "A"	8	6	1	1	60 20 13
Elm Hall Drive	9	6	2	1	54 36 13	L'pool Y.M. "A"	9	6	3	0	55 35 12
Victoria Pk. "A"	9	4	3	2	52 38 10	Dunlop "A"	8	4	4	0	41 39 8
Aigburth M.	9	4	5	0	41 49 8	Wav. C.C. "B".	8	3	4	1	36 44 7
C.L.C. "A"	9	2	7	0	29 61 4	St. Michael's "A"	9	3	5	1	43 47 7
Tech. Studs.	8	2	6	0	28 52 4	Deaf Inst.	7	2	5	0	29 41 4
Mossley Hill ...	9	2	7	0	19 71 4	Aigburth "C"	8	1	7	0	17 63 2
Aigburth "B"	9	0	9	0	13 77 0	C.L.C. "B"	9	0	9	0	8 82 0

LEAGUE TABLES Lancashire League Tables

WEST—First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Wall Jrs. "A" ...	9	7	0	2	62	28	16
Thorndale	8	7	0	1	55	25	15
St. Joseph's	9	5	2	2	58	32	12
Bronze Sports....	9	6	3	0	56	34	12
Claremont	9	4	4	1	52	38	9
B'head Y.M. Jrs.	9	3	4	2	44	46	8
Victory Soc.	8	3	5	0	30	50	6
B'head Co-op.	8	2	5	1	34	46	5
Wall. Motors ...	8	1	6	1	22	58	3
Creep Inn	9	0	9	0	17	73	0

Second Division

Cosco	9	8	0	1	76	14	7
St. Peter's	8	7	0	1	61	19	15
Burrowdale	9	6	2	1	59	31	13
Hoylake "A"	8	6	1	1	52	28	13
Claremont "A"....	9	4	5	0	47	43	8
Creep Inn "A"....	8	3	4	1	32	48	7
St. Joseph's "A" ..	9	2	6	1	26	64	5
Kingsway "A"....	8	2	6	0	36	44	4
SS. Mary and P. ..	8	1	7	0	22	58	2
Vernons	8	0	8	0	9	71	0

Third Division

Thorndale "A"....	9	7	0	2	67	23	16
Cosco "A"	9	7	1	1	69	21	15
Burrowdale "A"....	9	7	2	0	66	24	14
Thingwall	9	6	1	2	65	25	14
Port Sunlight....	9	6	3	0	53	37	12
Wall. Motors "A" ..	9	4	5	0	44	46	8
Creep Inn "B"....	9	2	6	1	25	65	5
Claremont "B"....	9	2	7	0	25	65	4
Burrowdale "B"....	9	0	7	2	26	64	2
Cosco "B"	9	0	9	0	10	80	0

Fourth Division

R.A.F. (W. K.) ..	8	8	0	0	78	2	16
R.A.F.A. (B'hd) ..	8	7	1	0	53	27	14
B'head Jrs. "A" ..	7	6	1	0	55	15	12
Prenton M.	8	4	2	2	40	40	10
Thorndale "B"....	9	4	4	1	48	42	9
Neston O.B.	8	3	3	2	36	44	8
Wall Jrs. "B"....	9	2	4	3	41	49	7
Y.W.C.A.	9	3	5	1	35	55	7
P. Sunlight "A" ..	9	0	8	1	20	70	1
Thingwall "A"....	9	0	9	0	14	76	0

NORTH

Burlington	9	9	0	0	68	22	18
Linacre	9	7	2	0	65	25	14
Bootle Y.M. "A" ..	8	6	2	0	48	32	12
Hamilton Mis....	9	5	3	1	48	42	11
Bath Street	8	5	3	0	48	32	10
English Elec.	9	4	3	2	53	37	10
Waterloo Park ...	9	2	6	1	31	59	5
Waterloo Dk "A" ..	8	1	6	1	24	56	3
Brenka	9	0	7	2	26	64	2
Rafters "C"	8	0	7	1	19	61	1

First Division

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Manchester "A"....	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Macclesfield	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Bolton "A"	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Bolton "B"	2	1	0	1	14	6	2
Liverpool "A"....	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Blackpool	4	0	0	4	3	37	0

Second Division

Ellesmere Port ...	6	4	1	1	38	22	9
Manchester "B" ..	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Liverpool "B"....	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Chester	5	2	1	2	28	22	5
Urmston	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
St. Helens	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

WOMEN'S

Manchester	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Liverpool	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Blackpool	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Croce	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

YOUTH

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
H'lake Y.M.C.A. ..	10	9	1	0	77	23	18
B'head B.C.	10	8	2	0	69	31	16
St. Annes. R.F. ..	10	7	3	0	57	43	14
B'head B.C. "A" ..	10	5	4	1	56	44	11
Ashville	9	5	4	0	52	38	10
Heswall	9	4	3	2	52	38	10
Woodchurch	9	3	6	0	39	51	6
Greasby	9	2	6	1	34	56	5
Shaftesbury	9	2	7	0	25	65	4
Conv-Youth	8	0	8	0	4	76	0

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Crucial Game In Rose Bowl

Owing to the indisposition of your regular contributor, who is suffering from the prevalent complaint ('flu), it is hoped that the lady members of the League will suffer a male substitute for this issue!

The writer had the opportunity of seeing the ladies' team in their Rose Bowl encounter at Manchester on January 2nd.

In a grim match, it is disappointing to report, that our girls were not equal to the task of gaining victory over their ancient rivals. The crucial set was undoubtedly the second of the evening, when E. Grimstone beat E. Mansell 22-20 in the third. Eileen had never previously been beaten by her opponent, and, truth to tell, was somewhat unfortunate to lose on this occasion, as time and again Miss Grimstone's crashing drives hit the top of the net and dropped over in unreturnable fashion.

FINE DOUBLES WIN

As this immediately followed a one-sided victory for Adele Wood and V. Taylor v. Andree Jones and K. May, the outlook was rather bleak. Andree cheered us up with a 21-12, 21-17 victory over Miss Taylor, but two further defeats for K. May (v. Grimstone) and E. Mansell (v. A. Wood) made the position nearly hopeless. E. Mansell and A. Jones, however, then gave the best performance of the evening by beating the Misses Wood and Grimstone 21-17 in the third, a really excellent performance this, and then K. May had little trouble with V. Taylor, so we still had a chance.

Del Wood, unfortunately, was well on top against Andree Jones, and our hopes were finally extinguished.

Points from the match were that the floor was very slippery and seemed to handicap our girls, particularly A. Jones, more than Manchester; that Del Wood is playing wonderfully well, and that Eileen and Andree made an excellent doubles pair.

I have always regarded members of the fair sex as being completely unpredictable, except possibly in table tennis, where surprise results are relatively uncommon, but while con-

gratulating N. Patterson and T. Stokes, of Anfield, I find it impossible to understand how they beat D. Ball, of Bibby's after she had beaten O. Dickenson and L. Robinson, of Balfour, only a week or two previously.

Such vagaries of form are indeed hard to explain.

Willmot Cup Win

In spite of the heavy fog on January 5, the Liverpool team managed to reach Chester in time to play the third round tie of the Willmot Cup and brought off a 7-2 victory.

Due to Ted Rumjahn being a 'flu victim, Roy Jones was a last minute selection, which he fully justified by winning his three games. In the process he avenged his recent defeat by Bill Devine in a Lancashire League match.

After an initial loss by Vic Chesham the issue was put beyond doubt by Liverpool winning the next six sets. The set winners were P. Rumjahn and Roy Jones (3 each) and V. Chesham.

Liverpool meet Manchester away in the next round.

Hyde Cup Draw

The draw for Round 4 of the Hyde Cup was made as follows:—

Thorndale v. Hamilton M.

W'tree C.C. "A" or Burlington v. Bath Street.

W'loo Pk. or Cosco v. Bohemians "A."

Osterley or African Oil "A" v. Claremont or Anfield "B."

Balfour "C" v. Aigburth "B" or Westfield "A."

R.A.F. (W.K.) or Bootle Y.M. "A" v. Lucern.

Bronze Sports v. English Electric.

Roby Y.C. v. St. Joseph's.

To be played during the week commencing January 22.

Mixed Teams Controversy

By "Galchas"

A short time ago it came to my notice that some members of the League were advocating that women should only play in the women's division.

Now in putting the pros and cons of this case I am not offering an opinion, but as the matter has been mentioned the following aspects may interest all members of the League and start them thinking over this important topic.

Those in favour of women being restricted to their own division argue that it is not fair on the man when he has to play against a woman in a League match for the following reasons:

ALWAYS WRONG

If he goes all out and wins by a big margin he is accused of not being chivalrous.

If he only just wins, when he could have won easily, he has played down to his opponent.

If he loses, he is a weakling.

Whatever the result, he is in the wrong.

Another point they make is that women are not allowed to compete in tournaments against men, so why should they do so in League matches?

Lastly there is the fact that women are allowed to play for two teams and yet pay only one registration fee.

Now to the other side of the picture. Playing to win is important, but it is not the be all and end all.

Our League has always been proud of its social side, and if mixed teams were done away with, then, on this score, the League would be the poorer.

If a man is beaten fairly and squarely by a woman, it should be an incentive for him to improve his game so that it will not happen again.

LOWER STANDARD

Many sound judges consider that the high standard of the women's game is due to the fact that they get match practice against men, and that if this were done away with the standard of play among the women would deteriorate.

This list, both for and against, is by no means exhausted, but as space is limited it will have to suffice.

That this is a controversial subject there is little doubt, for some Leagues do restrict women to their own division and others do not.

What are your views?

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Cup Draws

READMAN CUP

The draw for Round 4 of the Readman Cup was made as follows:—

B'head Y.M. "A" v. Anfield "A."
Hovlake Y.M. or R.A.F. (W.K.) v. Birkenhead Y.M.
Bohemians v. St. Michael's.
African Oil v. Victoria Park.
Rafters v. I.C.I. or Bootle Y.M.
Balfour v. Balfour "A."
Acacia v. 15th Crosby.
Homecroft v. Homecroft "A."

To be played during the week commencing January 22.

BARTHOLOMEW CUP

The draw for Round 2 of the Bartholomew Cup is as follows:—

Oakhill v. Bibby's.
Balfour v. Aigburth "A."
Littlewoods "A" v. Osterley.
Mossley Hill v. St. Joseph's.
Port Sunlight v. C.L.C.
Rafters "A" v. Anfield.
Homecroft v. Domestic Mission.
Rafters v. Aigburth or W'tree C.C.

To be played during the week beginning January 22.

Thorndale Drop First Point

Boy! Hand me my flagon of flumixture and some double-size aspirins. That's better! Now I can begin to concentrate on table tennis again. At one period I began to wonder whether these notes would ever be written, especially when the whole household was hit for six at the same time!

Congratulations to A. McColl (R.A.F., West Kirby) on being the last survivor from a field of 200, who has played in every match and is still undefeated.

St. Joseph's recently had two remarkable matches. In a draw of 14 games—all Birkenhead Juniors just gained a final points advantage of 503-495, while in the following week the Saints beat Bronze Sports 7-3 in a match which went to 29 games, the final points position being 544-504 in the Saints' favour. This match saw E. Smith's first defeat, W. Postlethwaite winning a titanic struggle 25-23, 19-21, 22-20.

TEN POINTS MARGIN

Wallasey Juniors "A" achieved the distinction of being the first team to take a point from Thorndale. The games were split 12-all and only ten points separated the sides out of a total of 939. Set-winners for the Juniors were K. Fields (2), R. Cox (2), and F. Morton. The Manor Road lads have been progressing steadily, and are now well placed to challenge the leaders in the second phase of the championship battle.

Burrowdale completed their first double of the season when they beat SS. Mary and Paul 9-1. Despite the score, the match was closely fought, and, indeed, W. Jones, W. Jackson, A. Oakden and R. Roberts all went close to winning a set. The Saints' only win was by J. Sweeney, who, playing cleverly and waiting for openings, gradually overcame W. R. Lonsdale, 17-21, 21-13, 21-14. Burrowdale set-winners were H. Sharpe (2), Mrs. E. Baird (2), J. E. Baird (2), N. F. Holland (2), and W. R. Lonsdale.

The scores were reversed in the return match between Thingwall and Port Sunlight. This time Thingwall won 6-4, thanks to victories by Miss J. Barton (2), K. Peters, W. A. Blundell R. G. Mahon, and E. Gaunt. Winners for Port Sunlight were C. H. Skentelbery (2) and P. W. Heselgrave (2).

Undoubtedly the team of the Region is R.A.F. (West Kirby). They are not finding the way to the stars particularly arduous at the moment, and look like winning the championship with maximum points and a record number of sets.

Even without some of their best players, such as N. Way (now posted), and S. Olive (on the sick list—here's to his speedy recovery) their team, based on T. White, H. Gillson, A. McColl, M. Merchant, W. Sewell, and E. Blackmore, is outstandingly good—they have already won three matches, 2-straight—while in three others they have conceded only three games.

They are obviously out of their class in the Fourth Division, and one can only hope they will be meeting closer opposition in the future. Meanwhile interest is focussed on the Hyde and Readman Cups, in which they will be finding the opposition now getting difficult. The good wishes of the Region will go with them in their Cup battles.

NEVER LOOKED BACK

Not to be outdone, R.A.F. Association, Birkenhead, are doing their part to keep the Service to the fore. Since their unaccountable lapse against Birkenhead Juniors "A" early in the season they have never looked back and are now lying a comfortable second in the table. Unfortunately their match against R.A.F. (West Kirby) will be too late for reporting in these notes, but good hunting to both teams.

At the moment there is no holding Hoylake Y.M.C.A. "A", and I am awaiting with interest the outcome of their return games with St. Peter's and Cosco. These three teams are developing a private scrap of their own in the promotion struggle, and I should hate to forecast what their respective positions will be in March.

Tournament news will be given in my next notes.

SPECIAL NOTE.—The Management Committee have altered the date of the Closed Championships to week commencing April 2 on account of the Easter holidays. There will be no play on Saturday, April 7, and the finals will take place on Wednesday, April 11.

Let Down By Secretaries

Some time ago I sent out a letter to all club secretaries in the East Region, advising them of the regional tournament, and what procedure to adopt for submitting entries. I have just learned that some of the players, who would like to have entered for this tournament, were never even notified, due to the negligence of their club secretary. To say that I am disgusted would be putting it mildly.

This matter was brought to my attention too late, otherwise, I would have accepted individual entries, but I hope it will serve as a lesson to those secretaries who failed in their duty. They are responsible for the welfare of their players and they are advised to keep this thought uppermost in their minds at all times.

With the season now in its second half I don't think anything can prevent the championship of Division I going to Balfour "C." I have not seen them yet, but judging by their individual records and sets average they look practically invincible.

NO WEAK LINKS

The leadership of Division 2 is still being dominated by Balfour "D," and having seen them in action recently, I can understand why. They are a good team with no weak links. Outstanding for them was Tom Partington, who gave an all-round display, and this, coupled with the splendid support he received from the rest of the team, enabled them to register a 9-1 victory over Bohemians "B."

It is good to see that the ladies, who are playing in the East Region, are doing so well. They usually find themselves opposed by men, a fact that makes their performances all the more creditable. They have certainly made their presence felt, especially Beryl Ward, Muriel Wilcox, May Alcock, and I Howley, who have got good records. Incidentally, I am glad to say that Doreen Lancaster, of Oakhill, who had to retire temporarily from table tennis at the beginning of the season, is back with us again. Here's wishing you well, Doreen.

Thanks to the enthusiastic support and guidance of their non-playing secretary, J. Duffy, Roby Youth Club have turned out to be the surprise team of the Region. In their first couple of matches, they collected more points than they got all last season. I considered myself fortunate to be

present when they scored their finest victory of the season, a 7-3 win over East Wavertree, in the Hyde Cup. The table tennis served up was excellent, and good to watch.

Ian Morris, Ben Fell, and Alan Pennington, playing against really tough opposition, were flawless in all they did. I might add that Morris and Pennington are only 19 years of age, but I predict a great future for them provided they are given the right chances. Roby signed on Alan Pennington about seven weeks ago and he has brought new strength to the team. Ben Fell, the veteran of the club, was telling me of his desire to finish with table tennis, but I think he is too good to fade out yet.

Unnecessary Delay

Not a little difficulty is being experienced by Mr. Frank Moore, the League Fixture Secretary and Registrar, in keeping League tables up-to-date owing to fixture cards not being returned to him promptly after matches have been played. Indeed, he has not yet received the results of several games played before Christmas.

With a league comprising sixteen divisions the task of keeping the tables in their proper condition is a big one, even when results are forwarded promptly, but when they are allowed to remain inside the pocket of a club secretary or team captain for several days, it is an impossible job, and involves Mr. Moore in much additional and unnecessary work.

It will probably be noticed that one or two of the tables in this issue of the Digest are not as up-to-date as they should be. If your club is affected, blame your secretary or team captain, not Mr. Moore, who compiles the table.

At the same time it should be pointed out that under Rule 26 all fixture cards must be returned within 24 hours of the match being played, and if the position continues Mr. Moore may be compelled to ask the Management Committee to take action under one of the clauses of Rule 26. First, however, he appeals, through the Digest, to all officials to help him to keep the tables in order.

Lucem Consolidate Leadership

With their tournament staged in the Cheshire Lines Club this month the South Region have made an auspicious beginning to the New Year. Unfortunately, the results of the tournament will not be available until February's issue, but Secretary Don Brown told me that there were 121 entries, 18 less than last year.

So much for the tournament, further details of which will appear next month. Let us look at the state of the divisions.

Last month's league tables showed Lucem and Wavertree Community at the top of Division 1 with 12 points each. However, the long-awaited clash between the two took place this month and established Lucem as the unchallenged leaders with an 3-2 victory. Nevertheless, it was not as easy as it sounds, many of the events being keenly contested.

For Lucem, Don Foulis, No. 1 player, is still unbeaten in league games.

There was a keep fight between Elm Hall Drive and Victoria Park last month. Six of the events went to three sets and the match ended in a draw. A. Moon and K. Lawton played well for Elm Hall, as did R. Erickson and C. Manning for Victoria Park.

STILL UNBEATEN

Livex "A" have not yet lost a match in Division 2. Up to the time of our last issue, Lucem were in the same happy position, but since then have been beaten by Cadwa, newcomers to

the Region. It was a hard-fought match, the final score being 6-4.

Livex are undoubtedly the league leaders, but it looks as though Cadwa may present some strong opposition.

Aigburth "C" and Cheshire Lines tie for the bottom position, and it seems as though neither wishes to yield this position, for ironically enough, the two points each team holds, were scored against each other. Aigburth "C" defeated Cheshire Lines at home, and lost to them away.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

A dinner has been arranged at White Lodge (where we held the President's eightieth birthday dinner) on Saturday, February 10, at 6 p.m. The Irish team and some members of the National Executive will be present. Tickets, which are limited, are 7s 6d each and may be obtained from Mr. W. Stamp.

The 25th anniversary celebrations, in which all members of the League can take part, will be held at the end of the season. Full particulars will be given next month.

NORTH NOTES

Owing to indisposition Mr. J. E. Neill—he has been a victim of the influenza epidemic—has been unable to contribute his notes on the North Region. We are glad to say he is now improving, though not yet fully recovered, and hopes to write again next month.

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Resolutions For New Year

By E. G. McGenity

Greetings once again and the compliments of the season to you all. Christmas and New Year festivities have restricted table tennis activities these past four weeks, but here we are once more ready for the fray.

With the beginning of another year, this is, perhaps, an opportune moment to look around us—to take stock as it were, and to see just how we stand.

From the playing point of view it is becoming increasingly clear that a rather startling disparity exists between certain of our teams, and consequently a number of matches are extremely one-sided. This sort of thing can be detrimental to enthusiasm, particularly for the weaker clubs, and it is therefore important for players to understand that there is no better, no surer way of improving one's game, than by playing against opponents of superior skill.

GOOD MANNERS

Now a word or two about other matters. First, good manners. On the whole the Youth Division is well off in this respect, but there are exceptions, and their misdeeds inevitably reflect on their clubs. Therefore, if you see one of your teams forgetting to shake hands after a game—remind him; if you see him smoking while at the table (you wouldn't believe it, would you?)—stop him; if you hear him using foul language (incredible)—stop him; and, finally, never forget that a good loser is a winner every time.

My next grouse (for grouse it is) concerns footwear. It is many years since our game rose above being a parlour pastime and assumed the dignity of a sport, to be reckoned second only to ice hockey, when it comes to speed. This is, of course, when played properly, but how can anybody even hope to play properly if they are glued to the floor by their father's working boots or their elder brother's fancy leathers. The folly of this cannot be stressed too strongly, and each club would do well to insist that its players must wear suitable pumps or shoes.

These then are a few New Year resolutions. If a thing is worth doing it's worth doing properly.

Editor's Note.—Some senior clubs please take notice.

To Defensive Strokes

By Peter Rumjahn

In his article this month Peter Rumjahn deals with defensive play—the highly-controversial push shot and the backhand chop defence.

The Push Shot.

Body position.—Right foot forward, knee slightly bent, left leg back and braced.

Shot is played close to and over the surface of bat inclined well underneath the ball.

A negative type of shot, used to keep a rally going whilst waiting for an opening.

Bat starting from chest with blade inclined back, is moving out and forward to full extent of arm, striking the underside of the ball; i.e., arm bent and straightened from elbow. The ball is allowed to come close to the body and is pushed away when arm is extended.

Backhand Chop Defence. Used against topspin attack.

Body Position.—Right shoulder to net, legs apart, right leg in front, knee slightly bent, left leg braced, weight on front foot.

Similar to chopped push shot over table, except arm is swung from shoulder with elbow slightly bent.

The movement of bat is back (from slightly behind side of body) and forward (along line of flight of the ball), with bat inclined back to chop under ball as it moves forward.

The nearest you can defend to table is the most effective position, the reason being as follows:—

- (a) You can overcome angled shots.
- (b) You are up for dropped shots.
- (c) The ball returns too quickly for opponent to position himself correctly.
- (d) You are much nearer to change to the attacking game.

TIPS

Chop is obtained by hitting the underside of the ball with inclined bat.

Swing and play your shots backwards and forwards in line with the flight of the ball, and not across the flight of the ball, by slicing vertically downwards.

Chop obtained by playing forward and under the ball is far the more accurate.

The start of the shot is all important, with a good arm bend.

These Are Your Letters

ON BEHALF OF YOUTH

Sir,—Bemoaning the stubbornness and decadence of youth is an old English custom, as ancient as grumbling at the weather and usually as harmless.

Mr. J. H. C. Hughes is entitled to indulge his fancy in this respect, but for him to assert that inability to play the half-volley accounts for the difference between our pre-war and post-war performances is surely an oversimplification of the position. The plain fact is that the honours in our game have a way of passing round, do what we may.

At present Merseyside is in partial eclipse, but, as a member of the Selection Committee, I consider that in Ronnie Rumjahn and Billie Pierce we had two post-war players, either of whom could have become an England No. 1. Ronnie prefers to give full rein to his great versatility in several sports, and I admire him for it, while Billie was called up at the height of his powers. While we can produce players such as these and B. Hand, R. Edwards, N. Jones, P. Morley, and R. Jones, to name but a few there is no cause for despondency: the pendulum will swing again.

May I mention, in passing, that our youth team last year won the Lancashire League Third Division championship—not a bad achievement considering their handicaps!—N. H. HOLLAND.

PLAYING STANDARDS

Sir,—As one who has played and followed table tennis in Liverpool for over 25 years, I feel that some effort must be made to improve to-day's standard of league play which, in my opinion, falls far short of pre-war levels.

This season it has been my misfortune to witness, on three occasions in the Third Division, the most blatant examples of negative tactics. To-day's object is to win by any means, and pushing, together with the lack of initiative and attack, is the keynote. No effort is made to speed up, open up, or otherwise enhance the game, and the result is to keep on getting the ball back until such time as a mistake will provide a player with an unearned and uninteresting point.

These tactics are predominant with most teams except the two who are either out on top or right at the bottom, and these must "have a go" in order to keep ahead or climb out of the rut.

In direct contrast I must state that in Division 1 of the South Region a match provides more pleasure to both players and spectators, as the practice is to win by one's ability and not merely to profit by opponents' mistakes.

Finally, I wish to make it clear that I am not voicing any disapproval of genuine defensive play, which provides the opportunity for an attack to be made. In such a match there is a contrast in styles and not an endeavour to prevent the attack and just push, push ad infinitum, to the disgust of the spectators and the lowering of playing standards.—C. W. Manning (Victoria Park).

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