

# Table Tennis Digest

Official Magazine of the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League.

No. 6

APRIL, 1951.

PRICE 6d.

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

PARIS 1946-7    LONDON 1947-8    BUDAPEST 1949-50

and

## VIENNA 1950/51

## BARNA

TABLE TENNIS BALLS  
exclusively adopted

# *Dunlop*

TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT

The Barna Bat Barua Championship Net and Posts, Barna Championship Table,  
Barna 3 Crown and 2 Crown Balls officially adopted for the 1950/51 Season.

AVAILABLE FROM ALL SPORTS DEALERS

DUNLOP SPORTS COMPANY LTD., 19/20, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1.

# JACK SHARP LTD.

---

## The Sports Specialists

---

Table Tennis equipment a Speciality  
Championship Tables, Bats, Balls, Nets, Shoes and Clothing  
All makes of named Bats and Tables supplied

---

Visit our Showrooms:—

**36-38, Whitechapel,  
Liverpool, 1.**

Tel.: ROYal 4793/4.

**Prizes and Presentations at Competitive Prices**

---

**W. H. POBJOY & SON**  
LIMITED

**7 & 9, Walton Road, Liverpool, 4**  
(EVERTON VALLEY)

TELEPHONE: NORTH 1173.

---

*Established over 50 years.*

---

- ★ Watches, Fountain Pens, General Fancy Goods, Cutlery
- ★ Leather Goods, Wedding and Engagement Rings
- ★ Clocks suitable for Presentations

---

*SPORTS & WHIST PRIZES A SPECIALITY*

# TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

## EDITORIAL BOARD:

*Joint Editors* J. D. Pattison and J. D. Loughrey

D. M. Foulis

W. Stamp

A. Montgomery

All correspondence must be addressed to The Editor, "Table Tennis Digest," 73 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

Published on the third Thursday of each month from October to March. Subscription for season 3s 6d, post free.

---

## COMMENT

Any review of the season, now reaching its conclusion, would be incomplete without mention of the Balfour Club.

Their performance in winning every Division in which they had a team entered (five titles in all), is surely without parallel in the League's history. As we go to press, there is also more than the outside chance that they will add to the list a number of the Challenge Cups, the Hyde already being safely installed in their keeping.

Another noteworthy feature of the season has been the excellent performances of some of the new Clubs, four of them having gained promotion in the first season, namely Cadwa "A," Littlewood's, R.A.F. (West Kirby), and Thorndale "A." Their players have made a real contribution to the playing strength of the League.

With this issue, we complete our first season as the official publication of the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League. We would like to extend our thanks to the regular contributors, who have done a very sound job of work, and to all those who have written to us on a variety of topics. In the first issue we asked for criticisms and suggestions for improving the "Digest," but the number of such letters have been extremely small, so you must blame yourselves if we assume that we have been giving you what you want! Let us remind you again, however, that all suggestions or ideas will receive our most careful consideration.

As Editors, the general co-operation of all concerned has given us no small measure of satisfaction. There have been various vicissitudes, the "Paper fastener issue" will certainly never be forgotten by us, or one or two others involved.

We sincerely hope, nevertheless, that the "Digest" has done something to raise and strengthen the prestige of the League, and to provide closer co-ordination and more interest to its many members, during its first year of life.

# Dance Down The River In Royal Iris On May 9th.

The response from the clubs for tickets for the Closed Championship finals has been very disappointing, and I hope members will make application through their secretaries, or at Dingle Vale School during the preliminaries or by writing direct to me.

The finals are being played in the large hall of the Y.M.C.A., Mount Pleasant, on Wednesday, April 11, commencing at 7.30. Admission 2s. (first seven rows) and 1s. The hall seats 450, the seating is tiered, and everyone has a comfortable tip-up seat.

Should you not know until the last moment whether you are able to attend, payment can be made at the door, but it does give one a comfortable feeling to know that our expenses at least have been covered by the advance sale of tickets.

## RIVER CRUISE

Arrangements have now been completed for the closing celebration of our twenty-fifth anniversary season on Wednesday, May 9. I have always been an advocate of a social side to our sport, and this occasion provides a unique opportunity for players to meet other than in "deadly combat" across the green table. Who knows you may find that some of the opponents you met, and thought were as frigid as the winter weather, may turn out to be almost human.

Do not let it worry you if you cannot dance—neither can I, but I am looking forward to an enjoyable evening talking to old friends and making new ones, and even partaking of fish and chips, which can be obtained at the saloon on board.

Among the other amenities are a buffet with a wide range of refreshments—ices and minerals, a licensed bar, and smoke-room. There is air conditioning throughout, with glass-enclosed decks affording abundant observation points under cover, with a public address system throughout the vessel. Dancing will be to Reg. Edwards and his orchestra, and there will be spot prizes and competitions in which all can join.

The "Royal Iris" has been specially constructed for cruising, being the only boat of its kind in the world, and does not come into commission until the end of April and we are probably the first private party to charter the vessel. It has a capacity of 1,000, therefore no one should be disappointed among our players or their friends.

The cruise will be of three hours' duration, and the boat will be alongside Liverpool Landing Stage at 7.10 p.m., leaving at 7.30, calling at Seacombe at 7.40 for our Wirral friends. We return to Liverpool 10.30 and Seacombe 10.40, which is in good time for everyone to obtain transport home.

The tickets are 4s. A card has been sent to your secretary asking him to state your club's requirements. Will you contact him, obtain them direct from me at the Closed Championships, or by sending a P.O. and a stamped-addressed envelope to 3, Farmdale Close, Liverpool 18

## BROADER OUTLOOK

Your loyalty to your club and the regular fulfilments of League fixtures is something that is to be expected, but I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all for supporting our efforts to further table tennis in this area, by your presence at the Philharmonic Hall for the Merseyside Open finals, the England-Ireland International, also the semi-finals and finals of the Bartholomew, Hyde, and Readman Cup matches.

This is very encouraging to the League officials, and I feel sure our magazine has been the means of bringing us all into closer contact and dispelling that rather narrow outlook that was developing, with a lack of interest in what "the other chap" was doing. There are signs that the happy spirit of comradeship which existed throughout the League in pre-1939 years is returning, and I am of the opinion that the "Digest" is playing no small part in bringing this about. Long may it continue the good work, and it is on this hopeful note that I take leave of you until next season.

# The Ten Or Twelve Controversy

Considerable interest has been aroused on the question of 12 or 10-team divisions. In the following Mr. W. Stamp, the League secretary, puts the pros and cons to enable members to put the problem in its proper perspective.

In pre-war years, when we had 12 teams per division, the season commenced at the beginning of October and ended early in April, but two weeks were allowed for Christmas and New Year and none for Cup Competitions.

Due to the growth of the League the Regions now have three weeks for preliminary and first rounds of the Readman and Hyde Cups, and a week each for the Merseyside Open, Regional Tournaments, Cup Finals, Merseyside Closed and Christmas, which with 18 League matches, makes a season of 26 weeks.

Increasing to 12 teams would require 30 weeks, and taking next season as an example we would begin on October 1 and finish on April 26.

## HOLIDAY DIFFICULTY

Application forms are at present sent out early in August and a month allowed for their return, because secretaries and players may be on holiday. It has been suggested that the season should begin in September, which would mean forms going out in July, a more difficult month from the holidays point of view, as well as from the fact that many members are engaged in summer sports and not in contact with their clubs.

The handbook has to be out at least three to four days before the beginning of the season, and at least three weeks allowed for allocating teams, arranging fixtures, printing and proofing.

This season there were 21 alterations of match nights between the handbook going to press and being published, because secretaries did not know when some of their members would be at night school. Members attending night school must know in advance the nights they will be available for table tennis, for it is almost impossible to fit both in on the one night.

It must be clearly established that next season no alterations of match nights or secretaries can be allowed after the handbooks have gone to press

and clubs must arrange to hold their annual meetings before League application forms are returnable.

To increase the Divisions and Regions to 12 teams would make necessary four extra matches for every team, some reorganisation of the whole League programme, and an extension of the season unless there were some reductions in Cup obligations. Suggestions to overcome these difficulties without prolonging the season are:—

## CUP LIMITATIONS

Clubs to be limited to one team in each Cup for which they are eligible (an analogy is quoted that Football League teams cannot enter their reserve sides in the F.A. Cup).

Confine the Readman Cup to one team per club, plus any additional team playing in the First and Second Divisions.

No week to be allowed for Regional Tournaments in the divisions' and women's fixtures.

Allow one week for Cup-ties, compared with three at present. This may tend to be hard on First and Second Division teams with hopes of winning a Cup, but consideration must be given to the bulk of the clubs who do not progress far in Cup Competitions.

It has been suggested that the season could be confined to 27 weeks by having 22 weeks for League matches, two weeks for the first and second rounds of the Readman and Hyde Cups, and one week each for the Merseyside Open and Closed, with the Regional Tournaments and the first round of the Maxwell Fyfe Cup in the same week.

Other suggestions are for Divisions 1, 2 and 3 to be constituted as at present, with Division 4 (Liverpool) and Division 4 (Wirral), the latter to include the strong elements from Pickenhead and Wallasey at present in the West Region. No second divisions in the Regions except the West as occasion demands.

Divisions to be renamed Premier and A.B.C. and D. if necessary, making five divisions in all.

This would tend to bring more Wirral clubs over this side, but this cuts both ways, as Liverpool clubs have to travel for return fixtures, and if it makes for a higher standard of table tennis—well, isn't that our aim.

(Continued of P. 4)

# Most Of The Thrill Had Gone

## CREATE OPTIMISM

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the completed league tables, and a report on the Readman Cup final, and I do not, therefore, propose to enumerate the positions of the clubs in the First Division.

Sufficient to extend to Balfour congratulations on remaining in the top-most positions from the beginning to the end of the season, and remaining unbeaten in league matches, and to Rafters on winning the Readman Cup, and being the only team to beat Balfour in any match during the season.

At the other end of the scale, Anfield and African Oil appear to be doomed to a spell in the Second Division, but will no doubt give strong support to the proposal for the increase to twelve teams per division.

When the season started I had high hopes of really thrilling battles for all positions, not only the championship, but I regret to say that what interest there has been has been maintained by the "bottom dogs" only.

### STRANGE TEAMS

Strange and varied have been the teams which have turned out in some of the matches, tending to make the division a real hit-and-miss business. While the influenza epidemic caused some surprise results through teams honouring their engagements while at reduced strength, I think that it would have been more in the interests of the game, and the division in particular, if a few postponements had taken place.

New blood is urgently required in the division to revive the competitive spirit—most of the matches are merely social functions with nothing whatever to cause any excitement, and while some people condemn it as "pot-hunting," give me the team which always intends to be at the top. After all, the purpose of the league is lost without that will to win.

Perhaps it is that the majority of those playing in the division have been doing so for so long that they are blasé, and to remove this attitude I would suggest that the relegation of four teams instead of the present two, and so give more teams the chance of premier status. No harm could be done, and a little encouragement in this direction might do a lot of good for the table tennis of Liverpool.

Striking a brighter note, those who have some cause for optimism include Roy Jones (Homecroft), who has beaten almost everyone of note in the division; A. Lawson (Anfield), who improved by leaps and bounds early in the season, but has since faded somewhat; W. Harris (Balfour "A"), now playing better than ever before; and R. Royle (Oakhill), who never dreams of giving up.

A special word to those of 15th Crosby Scouts, who replaced missing "stars," and were virtually fed to the lions.

There remains one feature in which the First Division can show its real enthusiasm, and that is the river cruise on May 9, when I hope there will be no absentees.

(Continued from P. 3)

It has been inferred that I am opposed to the 12-teams scheme, but like other members of the Management Committee my main concern is that we do the best for the League in the furtherance of the game. I am opposed to the season being extended to 30 weeks, and while I can see the arguments in favour of increasing to 12 concessions will have to be made regarding extra weeks for Cup-ties which affect fewer clubs as each round is played).

I feel that many clubs will welcome the fact of not having to enter every team in every cup, particularly where they have two or more teams, but it must be remembered that restricting entries means an increase in cup fees. This was a probability next season owing to the increased cost of medals, but it will become a necessity if the new suggestions are agreed.

A sub-committee has been appointed to consider these new proposals, which will be circulated with the notice convening the A.G.M., at the end of May, and it would be a help if we could have any constructive suggestions from clubs. Will secretaries therefore send me any ideas they may have so that they can be considered.

This being the last issue for this season of the "Digest," any correspondence on this matter or in connection with the magazine should be sent to me at 3, Farndale Close, Liverpool 18.

## Fine Promotion Records

To complete my summaries of our division's teams there remains Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. "A." They dropped from the First Division last season without having gained a point, but this season have had greater success, finishing in the middle of the division after having played many interesting games.

Their greatest successes were "doubles" against Aigburth and the Police and three points from the I.C.I. On top of their average success in League matches they have done quite well in the cup competitions.

In the Readman Cup they fought two drawn matches with Anfield "A," only losing by two games on the aggregate scores. The Maxwell Fyfe Cup brought greater success, for they reached the semi-final, but let this match against Wallasey Juniors slip through their fingers after leading 4-2.

The season has now closed, and the reckoning arrived, so let us reflect on the achievements and disappointments that have befallen our teams.

### STEADILY UPWARDS

At the top Bibby's and Acacia stand ready for promotion to the First Division. To them this means more than ordinary promotion—it is an achievement which I think is unique. Bibby's have been promoted each year since starting four years ago in the North Region, and Acacia, ex-Ministry of Supply, have been promoted yearly since starting in Second Division West Region five years ago. I do not think either will go through the First Division in similar fashion, but I am sure they will hold their own.

Beneath them Homecroft, Bootle, Anfield and Birkenhead Y.M. fought hard, but could not make the grade. Cadvallader's departure for the Forces weakened Bootle in the last few games, and if Lijinsky had assisted Anfield all season their position would have been higher. Homecroft and Birkenhead Y.M. could not win their way back to the premier division at their first attempt, but no doubt will be in the running next season.

I.C.I. had their usual average season, with a little urge towards the end, but Oakhill, Police and Aigburth disap-

pointed. I cannot understand why Oakhill fell away, but in the other cases it was shortage of good reserves and practice that made the difference.

In cup competitions two teams stand out—Acacia, by reaching the semi-final of the Readman after overcoming 15th Crosby, and African Oil, only to lose to Ratters 7-3; and Bootle, by reaching the semi-final of the Maxwell Fyfe.

### ANFIELD PROTEST

Sir,—I wish to protest against the article in February's "Digest," written by K. Baldock, and headed "Tactics That Have Not Paid."

This has very much upset the boys in the team mentioned. It is a complete travesty of the facts, and I can assure you that the "A" team has at all times played in strict numerical strength.

We have never discussed tactics, and though many times we have known the composition of our opponents, we have never played our team out of its true order according to form.

My club welcome criticism, whether it is for or against, but we want it to be just and true. Mr. Baldock has misused the freedom of the magazine to vaunt his own personal prejudice against our club.

Our members are 100 per cent. in favour of the magazine, and see in it the chance to bind all clubs closer together and bring about a happy and tolerable atmosphere, not only with the clubs, but with the League and its officials, but all this can be changed if mischievous articles are not censored.—R. GRAY (Anfield).

K. Baldock comments:—"Of course I do not know if the Anfield club discussed tactics or not, but the record of their "A" team seemed to indicate it.

Here it is: Charnock played 1, 2, 3 and 4; Maher played 2, 3, 4 and 5; Lawless played 3, 4 and 5; Bintley started No. 5 and jumped to No. 1; Lewis started at 5, went to 2, and then 3. May I say that tactics are quite legal and not poor sportsmanship as many believe. I cannot understand Mr. Gray's reference to "personal prejudice." I have no bias, and never have had any against the Anfield club."

## Little Between All Teams

Another season of League warfare has now passed into the obscurity of the record books. Early season hopes have been realised or shattered, reputations made, enhanced, diminished or broken. The toil and sweat, the triumphs, the disgraces, the journeys out, the rushes home, the cups of tea, all are fast fading memories.

It is a grand game this table tennis. How we love to win; how we scheme to avenge early season setbacks, but how often we fail. Some of us can no longer co-ordinate our ideas and actions, due, perhaps, to the relentless march of time; others fail to even get the ideas.

Liverpool looks in vain for a prospective world champion in our midst. We blame the table, the net, the ball, the lighting, the floor, the luck or foul service for our shortcomings, but how we enjoy it all.

But enough soliloquising. Let us reflect on the final results of the season. Our chief honours go to Bohs., who really did not look like being displaced as League leaders after their early season success at Hoylake.

### FOUGHT HARD

Hoylake also deserve every credit. They fought hard, but were not quite equal to the task of overtaking the non-faltering Bohs. To both Ken Jones and Bert Harkness, the rival captains, and to their men we say: "Well done; we hope you enjoyed your short stay with us in Division 3 and we wish you every success in the higher sphere next season."

Wallasey must come high up on the list for back-patting. At the time of writing they look probable Maxwell Fyfe Cup winners. We hope they pull it off, but win or lose they are a great credit to our division.

It is not possible to mention all teams. Livex proved themselves a cut above the average when at full strength; Waertree were the most improved team at the season's end, but the margin

between even the almost invincible Bohs. and lowly Ratters was not great.

Our teams acquitted themselves well in Cup-ties by accounting for five Second Division sides.

Of individuals I rated H. D. Vaughan, of Hoylake, top, with one match to go he had lost but four sets playing No. 2. Ken Jones and D. Young, of Bohs., with four losses each playing Nos. 3 and 4 respectively, follow, with G. Ball (Hoylake No. 3) six losses and F. Lawson (Livex No. 1) seven losses, also deserving honourable mention.

Finally, may I say how I have enjoyed writing for you, and trust you have equally enjoyed reading your divisional news.

**COACHING . . .**  
**is the way to success**

**TED RUMJAHN**

**ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL**

*Registered with E.T.T.A.*

**will improve your play**

**Club or Private Lessons can be  
arranged at**

**64, CHURCH ROAD,  
ROBY**

**Telephone: HUYTON 226**



## Issue In Doubt Till End

Another grand season has come to an end and we have had to wait until the last week to hail the champions. Congratulations to Balfour "B" on winning the League in their first season in this division, dropping only five points, including one defeat. They had to beat off a strong challenge from St. Michael's, and at the same time they were defeating Second and Third Division clubs to get to the final of the Maxwell Fyfe Cup.

I hope Messrs. Gill, Huyton, Wildblood, Jones and Oxlade can add this trophy to their League honour for it will be richly deserved. They fielded the same side in nearly every match, and these five players, though always out to win, played every game in a sportsmanlike way.

St. Michael's, who have had one of their best-ever seasons, and were League leaders for the best part of the season, slipped up at the most critical time, and have had to be content with the runners-up position.

### BUSY WEEK

The extra matches involved in getting to the last four of the Readman Cup, and the last eight of the Maxwell Fyfe was probably the reason for dropping points when having to play four matches in one week. Unbeaten until the last match of the season they went down six sets to four at Dunlops, who were also the only team to lower the colours of Balfour "B."

The Readman Cup march of St. Michael's was expected to come to an end when they met Division 1 leaders, Balfour, in the semi-final, but the experts who forecast a ten sets victory to Balfour came unstuck. Though beaten they were not disgraced and came away with two sets—Gowar defeating Davies and Weston beating Eileen Mansell.

The Wallasey team, Kingsway, always a grand side to watch, may just miss promotion this year, but with the same players next season should be a difficult side to beat.

The two bottom clubs, Aigburth "A"

and Holme Hey (though nine points separated them) will find things more to their liking in the South Region. Aigburth "A" had a really bad season, not being able to pick up one solitary point.

Outstanding players in this division were E. Davies (Dunlop), G. Gowar (St. Michael's), J. Seidon (Waterloo Dock), A. Simpson (Port Sunlight O'Boys), and E. Wall (Holme Hey).

I am compelled to eat my own words when I wrote in the first issue that the division wasn't as strong as last season. The play of most teams, especially the Cup performances of Balfour "B" and St. Michael's, have proved me wrong.

Thanking all secretaries and captains for their co-operation and hospitality when visiting their clubs.

# Look!

## Modern Table Tennis by JACK CARRINGTON

Trainer of the 1949 World  
Champion, Johnny Leach.

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

Price 6s. net.

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

G. Bell & Sons Ltd. London



## Cup Depended On Last Game

By J. H. C. Hughes

In winning the Readman Cup by beating Balfour 6-4, after being down 2-4, Rafter's had much to thank their captain, Eric Caird, and Ron. Grayson, for they obtained four of Rafter's six wins.

It was a match full of interest, shock, and some unrehearsed humour, with the result in doubt to the last game.

Balfour began well with Reg. Hetherington beating Peter Rumjahn 23-21 in the third game. Hetherington's steadiness and fighting qualities pulling him through in a game that was always tense. Grayson levelled by beating Norman Jones in a game marked by wild mistakes more than winning shots.

Les Davies' whirlwind penholder attack beat Ron. Rumjahn two straights, but I felt Rumjahn, though getting to 20 in the second game, knew little of what was happening.

Rafter's again levelled when Eric Caird bamboozled Dennis Caldwell with a weird variety of shots, mixed with an entertaining patter and dance act, so that halfway came with Balfour leading 3-2, due to Eileen Mansell beating Bill Lamb convincingly in two straight.

On resuming Balfour went to 4-2, when Jones beat Lamb without much trouble, and then we saw Grayson's backhand attack get through against some good defensive play by Caldwell, although his lively flick would be effective if used less often.

Caird's combination of table tennis and blarney were too much for Eileen Mansell, whom he beat two straight, and Rafter's went into the lead for the first time when Ron. Rumjahn beat Hetherington after a hard three sets battle.

So to the last event. If Davies could reproduce his earlier form Balfour would win on games, but it was rather an anti-climax, for, though Davies got away to a good start, thanks to Peter Rumjahn's three fault serves in the first five, he never struck his form, and Rumjahn had little difficulty in winning, 21-18, 21-12.

## Bibby's Were Not Disgraced

By Margaret Lindner.

In congratulating Rafter's on winning the Bartholomew Cup for the third year in succession, thus creating a new record, I would like to pay tribute to Bibby's on their good fight. If one or two of their players had taken better advantage of their opportunities the score might have been closer. As it was, Doreen Hogg's worry that her team might not give Rafter's a good game was unnecessary.

One of the most exciting and crucial sets was between Dorothy Ball and Olwen Southall, when Dorothy had 17-13 advantage in the third game. Olwen, however, nothing daunted, and making good use of both backhand and forehand drives, took the next six points to eventually win 21-13.

Bluey May's defence was much too steady for Joyce Cooke, who was tempted to keep attacking. No doubt Bibby's were keeping their fingers crossed that Joyce would repeat her recent win over Bluey in a League match. Joyce had her consolation, however, when she accounted for Pinkie May, due mainly to sound backhand defence and occasional surprise backhand drives.

Gladys Brown, playing confidently, won both her sets by her excellent placing and attack to both wings and good use of the backhand.

Pat Grundy, after a slow start, played well to win 21-8 in the third came against Marjorie Bannister, and Kay Rumjahn must have felt pleased that she also did her share by beating Dorothy Ball in straight games.

Doreen played well to take Pinkie to three games, but was not quite so happy playing Bluey, to whom she lost in straight games.

After the match the trophy was presented to the winners by the donor, our President, with a promise of a further presentation of a replica as a permanent record of their hat-trick.

Finally, a compliment to both teams (complete with club badges) on their smart appearance.

# Balfour's Hyde Cup Victory

# These Are Your Letters

BY K. BALDOCK.

Congratulations to Balfour "C" on winning the Hyde Cup. Their 6-4 victory over Lucem, at Littlewood's Club, was merited and was achieved by good all round play, and so we saw Don Foulis, chairman of the League and Lucem's captain, hand the cup over to his rival, Jim Dickenson.

The match began with the respective No. 2's, Shepherd (Lucem) and Rooney (Balfour). Shepherd appeared to enjoy being in arrears, and though he took the first game 22-20 he let the others slip, 21-19, 21-17.

Ex-international Foulis then showed the value of experience to beat Townsend, though the Balfour player made some deft touches in the first game.

Balfour's 3, 4 and 5 showed a noticeable style in their play. Dickenson counteracted Shone's defence with defence, but finally lost 21-18 in the third; Critchley went straight into attack against Boden and never let the result be in doubt, and Jones, meeting Lucem's penholder Burns, found himself 14-6 down, but by mixing defence with attack turned the game to win 21-16, 21-18. So the interval arrived with Balfour leading 3-2.

## VITAL POINTS

Shone and Critchley opened the second half, and Shone should have won if he had not foolishly thrown two points away at 20-all in the first, but Critchley persevered with stylish attack to win the third game 21-16.

Now the battle really developed, with Foulis intent on retrieving the position for Lucem against a determined Rooney. They sea-sawed through two games, 21-15, 19-21, but Foulis, 13-7 behind in the third, by thoughtful play brought the game round to win 21-19.

This may have inspired Burns, for he set about Dickenson in no uncertain manner to win 21-18, 21-14. Boden's jumpiness might distract many players, but not Jones, who defended well to win 21-16, 21-16.

In the final set Shepherd knew he needed to win two straight while Townsend knew that one game would suffice, but the latter took no chances, and after an interesting first game settled the issue by winning 21-14, 21-12.

## UP AND DOWN PLAN

Sir,—I would like to support the proposal of 12-team divisions. In my opinion the season should not come to an end until April and this is not possible under the present system.

May I also suggest a three-up and three-down promotion and relegation scheme for the divisions and two up from the regions to the Fourth Division. This would automatically ensure a new Fourth Division every season, with the exception of one team, and would give more regional teams the opportunity of rising to the Third Division.

In this way they would be sure of playing different opposition instead of the same teams, as they do now, year after year, with the result, possibly, of a higher standard of player in the regions.—M. COOKE (Bath Street).

## PLAY "EXTRA TIME"

Sir,—Your February comment was timely, for last week my club, Lucem, became apparently the second team to reach a Cup final by a points margin—twelve in our case.

As you say this is not very satisfactory to us and even less to our opponents, Bronze Sports, with whom we would willingly have replayed the tie if the rules had permitted.

However, if semi-finals and finals must be decided on one meeting a more satisfactory method would be to play "extra time" by pairing off in playing order and each couple playing one game. It would also enable the respective No. 4's to have a go at each other—a chance not afforded by normal routine.

Time would seem to be the only argument against this suggestion, but surely that could be remedied by starting, say, 15 minutes earlier and cutting the interval shorter.—W. L. SHEPHERD (Lucem).

# FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

Compiled by F. R. MOORE

First Division				WOMEN—First Division											
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.		P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour Inst.	18	16	0	2	140	40	34	Balfour	18	16	0	2	147	33	34
Homecroft	18	12	3	3	112	68	27	Rafters	18	16	1	1	140	40	33
Rafters "A"	18	9	5	4	108	72	22	Aigburth	18	11	6	1	105	75	23
Rafters	18	9	7	2	96	84	20	Bibbys	18	9	6	3	99	81	21
B'head Y.M.C.A.	18	8	6	4	93	87	20	Oakhill	18	8	9	1	87	93	17
Oakhill	18	7	8	3	87	93	17	Homecroft	18	7	9	2	87	93	16
15th Crosby	18	6	8	4	74	106	16	Bootle C.D.	18	6	10	2	72	108	14
Balfour "A"	18	2	9	7	75	105	11	C.L.C.	18	4	12	2	59	121	10
African Oil	18	3	13	2	60	120	8	Anfield	18	2	13	3	58	122	7
Anfield	18	1	14	3	55	125	5	Wav. C.C.	18	2	14	1	48	132	5
<b>Second Division</b>								<b>Second Division</b>							
Bibbys	18	14	3	1	124	56	29	Rafters "A"	18	15	1	2	140	40	32
Acacia	18	12	2	4	123	57	28	Littlewoods	18	16	2	0	135	45	32
Homecroft "A"	18	10	4	4	103	77	24	Aigburth "A"	18	14	3	1	137	43	29
Bootle Y.M.C.A.	18	10	5	3	97	83	23	Domestic M.	18	9	7	2	109	71	20
Anfield "A"	18	9	5	4	102	78	12	Osterley	18	8	6	4	101	79	20
B'head Y.M. "A"	18	8	6	4	96	84	20	Mossley Hill	18	7	9	2	95	85	16
L.C.L.	18	6	9	3	82	98	15	L.C.L.	18	4	12	2	65	115	10
Oakhill "A"	18	5	11	2	78	102	12	Littlewoods "A"	18	5	13	0	58	122	10
L.P.A.S.	18	1	13	4	63	127	6	St. Josephus	18	2	15	1	32	148	5
Aigburth	18	0	17	1	37	143	1	P. Sunlight	18	1	15	2	26	154	4
<b>Third Division</b>								<b>SOUTH.—First Division</b>							
Bohemians	18	17	1	0	138	42	34	Lucem	18	17	0	1	145	35	35
Hoylake Y.M.	18	14	2	2	129	51	30	Wav. C.C. "A"	18	16	2	0	134	46	32
Wall Jrs.	18	13	3	2	124	56	28	L'pool Y.M.C.A.	18	13	4	1	130	50	27
Livex	18	11	5	2	111	69	24	Victoria Pk. "A"	18	10	6	2	110	70	22
Wavertree C.C.	18	7	9	2	88	92	16	Elm Hall Dr.	18	10	7	1	98	82	21
Oakhill "B"	18	6	11	1	68	112	13	Aigburth M.	18	8	10	0	87	93	16
Victoria Park	18	5	11	2	74	106	12	Techn. Studs.	18	7	10	1	84	96	15
Westfield	18	5	12	1	70	110	11	C.L.C. "A"	18	3	15	0	54	126	6
Domestic M.	18	2	13	3	52	128	7	Mossley Hill	18	3	15	0	34	146	6
Rafters "B"	18	0	13	5	46	134	5	Aigburth "B"	18	0	18	0	24	156	0
<b>Fourth Division</b>								<b>Second Division</b>							
Balfour "B"	18	14	1	3	129	51	31	Livex "A"	18	16	0	2	144	36	34
St. Michele	18	11	1	6	132	48	28	Cadwa "A"	18	15	3	0	125	55	30
Kingsway	18	12	4	2	113	67	26	Lucem "A"	18	11	4	3	118	62	25
C.L.C.	18	10	5	3	99	81	23	Lpl Y.M. "A"	18	10	5	3	112	68	23
Dunlop	18	9	7	2	97	83	20	Wav. C.C. "B"	18	9	7	2	98	82	20
P. Sunlight O.B.	18	7	8	3	90	90	17	St. Michaels "A"	18	9	8	1	105	75	19
Waterloo Dock	18	6	10	2	82	98	14	Dunlop "A"	18	8	9	1	86	94	17
Edwardians	18	5	11	2	72	108	12	Aigburth "C"	18	3	15	0	43	137	6
Holme-Hev	18	3	12	3	63	117	9	Deaf Inst.	18	2	16	0	45	135	4
Aigburth "A"	18	0	18	0	15	165	0	C.L.C. "B"	18	1	17	0	24	156	2
<b>EAST—First Division</b>								<b>EAST—Second Division</b>							
Balfour "C"	18	18	0	0	155	25	36	Balfour "D"	18	14	0	4	133	47	32
Bohemians "A"	18	16	2	0	126	54	32	Bohemians "B"	18	13	2	3	122	58	29
Osterley	18	11	5	2	113	67	24	Roby Y.C.	18	13	2	3	122	58	29
Anfield "B"	18	9	6	3	110	70	21	R.A.F.A. (Lpl)	18	8	7	3	103	77	19
Taxes	18	9	6	3	104	76	21	East Wavertree	18	8	8	2	94	86	18
Cadwa	18	7	9	2	92	88	16	N.A.B.U.K.	18	7	9	2	76	104	16
African Oil "A"	18	7	11	0	74	106	14	Osterley "A"	18	5	10	3	70	110	13
St. Barts.	18	5	11	2	68	112	12	Edwardians "A"	18	6	12	0	74	106	12
Westfield "A"	18	1	16	1	32	148	3	Oakhill "C"	18	3	14	1	58	122	7
St. Aloysius	18	0	17	1	25	155	1	Bohemians "C"	18	2	15	1	48	132	5

# LEAGUE TABLES

# Our Chairman Takes Stock

By D. M. Foulis

## WEST—First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Wall, Jnrs. "A"	18	14	1	3	127	53	31
Thorndale	18	14	3	1	120	60	29
Bronze Sports	18	13	3	2	119	61	28
S. Josephs (Bhd)	18	12	4	2	118	62	26
B'head Y.M. Jrs.	18	9	7	2	100	80	20
Claremont	18	7	8	3	91	89	17
B'head Co-op.	18	4	12	2	73	107	10
Victory Social	18	4	14	0	57	123	8
Creep Inn	18	4	14	0	55	125	8
Wall. Motors	18	1	16	1	40	140	3

## Second Division

Cosco	18	16	0	2	145	35	34
Burrowdale	18	13	3	2	127	53	28
H'lake Y.M. "A"	18	13	4	1	122	58	27
St. Peter's	18	11	3	4	115	65	26
Kingsway "A"	18	10	8	0	111	69	26
Claremont "A"	18	8	9	1	96	84	17
SS. Mary & Paul	18	5	12	1	71	109	11
Creep Inn "A"	18	4	12	2	62	118	10
St. Joseph's "A"	18	2	15	1	26	154	5
Vernons	18	1	17	0	26	154	2

## Third Division

Thorndale "A"	18	14	1	3	132	48	31
Thingwall	18	13	2	3	133	47	29
Cosco "A"	18	12	4	2	122	58	26
Burrowdale "A"	18	12	5	1	118	62	25
Port Sunlight	18	11	6	1	100	80	23
Wall Motors "A"	18	6	11	1	82	98	13
Burrowdale "B"	18	5	11	2	77	103	12
Creep Inn "B"	18	4	12	2	59	121	10
Claremont "B"	18	4	12	2	57	123	10
Cosco "B"	18	0	17	1	21	159	1

## Fourth Division

R.A.F. (W.K.)	18	17	1	0	163	17	34
B'head Jrs. "A"	18	17	1	0	129	51	34
R.A.F.A. (B'hd)	18	10	5	3	100	80	23
Thorndale "B"	18	10	6	2	98	82	22
Neston O.B.	18	8	7	3	79	101	19
Y.W.C.A. (B'hd)	18	6	9	3	81	99	15
Prenton Mths.	18	6	10	2	72	108	14
Wall Jnrs. "B"	18	5	11	2	74	106	12
P. Sunlight "A"	18	3	14	1	58	122	7
Thingwall "A"	18	0	18	0	24	156	0

## NORTH

Burlington	18	17	1	0	134	46	34
Boole Y.M. "A"	18	14	2	2	125	55	30
English Electric	18	11	3	4	115	65	26
Linacre A.C.	18	10	6	2	109	71	22
Hamilton Mts.	18	9	6	3	96	84	21
Bath Street	18	9	8	1	100	80	19
Waterloo Park	18	3	12	3	63	117	9
Brenka	18	2	12	4	65	115	8
Waterloo D. "A"	18	3	14	1	64	116	7
Rafters "C"	18	1	15	2	45	135	4

## YOUTH

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Hoylelake Y.M.	18	16	2	0	145	35	32
Birkenhead B.C.	18	15	3	0	126	54	30
R.F. St. Annes	18	13	5	0	118	62	26
Ashville	18	13	5	0	117	63	26
B'head B.C. "A"	18	9	8	1	101	79	19
Heswall	18	7	9	2	87	93	16
Woodchurch	18	7	11	0	79	101	14
Greasby	18	4	13	1	68	112	9
Shaftesbury	18	2	16	0	29	151	4
Conv-Youth	18	2	16	0	27	153	4

This sixth issue marks the end of the first season as far as the "Digest" is concerned—a suitable occasion then for mental stocktaking.

To say that the League magazine has been a popular success is to make an under-statement, and the greatest credit is due to the Hon. Editors—Jack Pattison and Des. Loughrey—the printers, Bill Stamp, and all others, who have worked so hard.

As in other success stories, there is usually a cloud or two, and with us it is finance. We shall show a loss of about £20. This despite the following facts:—

The Hon. Editors and contributors do all the work for us "gratis."

The helpers who have addressed some 7,500 envelopes, placed an equivalent number of magazines therein and stamped the said envelopes, do so as a "labour of love."

It will probably surprise the majority of the members of the league to learn that this work has involved for those who have done it, a considerable amount of time each month. Indeed one or two of these have had to get time off their own work so as to be able to get the magazine to the members in good time.

So, as you read your copy just give a vote of thanks to all those who have worked so hard to bring it to you each month.

And now—about that loss! You have two more opportunities this season to help us to wipe it out and make it possible to give you an even better and bigger magazine next season.

See you at the "Closed" and on the river cruise!

# Facts And Figures From Records

By J. D. Loughrey.

The following facts and figures have been culled from his records book for this season by Mr. J. D. Loughrey, the League's official statistician. He has also compiled a list of the best individual averages for players in all divisions, and these will be exhibited at Dingle Vale School during the Closed Championships.

No player in the League, who has played 20 or more sets, has gone through the season undefeated, but two have achieved this feat while playing for a particular side.

They are Miss Muriel Willcox, who won all her sets for Osterley Ladies, and G. Edge, with 24 winning sets to his credit, for Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. Juniors "A."

The following six players were unbeaten in League matches:—

B. Townsend (Balfour "C")	36 sets
M. Willcox (Osterley Ladies)	36 "
R. Thomas (Balfour "D")	30 "
G. Edge (Birk Y.M. Jrs. "A")	24 "
D. Foulis (Lucem)	22 "
R. E. Roberts (Acacia)	22 "

## CUP SUCCESS

The following table shows the comparative success achieved by teams in the first four divisions when playing teams in other divisions in the Readman and Maxwell Fyfe Cup competitions.

	P.	W.	L.	p.c.
Division 1.	11	9	2	81.72
Division 3.	25	12	13	48.00
Division 4.	24	11	13	45.83
Division 2.	28	12	16	42.85

The Fourth Division suffered three defeats from Regional sides and the Third Division two.

The following table gives a comparison of the success gained by Regional teams when opposed to teams in other regions during the Readman and Hyde Cup competitions:—

	P.	W.	L.	p.c.
West 1.	26	20	6	76.92
East 1.	24	16	8	66.66
North 1.	24	16	8	66.66
West 2.	18	9	9	50.00
South 1.	27	12	15	44.44
West 3.	11	4	7	36.36
West 4.	16	5	11	31.25
East 2.	10	2	8	20.00
South 2.	16	2	14	12.50

The North gained two victories against sides in a higher division, and East 1, South 1, and West 4, one each.

## INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

The following players have the best records for their respective divisions. In each case the first-named played at least 75 per cent. of his or her matches at Nos. 1 or 2, and the second named either less than 75 per cent. or in a lower team position. Each played at least 20 sets.

	P.	W.
Div. 1.—E. J. Rumpahn (Raf. 'A')	36	33
N. R. Jones (Balfour)	38	34
Div. 2.—R. Roberts (Acacia)	36	35
W. Rowan (Acacia)	44	35
Div. 3.—H. D. Vaughan (H. Y.M.)	48	41
D. Young (Bohs.)	46	39
Div. 4.—E. Davies (Dunlop)	40	36
B. Oxlade (B'four 'B')	44	37
Ladies 1.—K. May (Rafters)	44	42
A. Brunskill (B'four)	42	40
Ladies 2.—M. Willcox (Ost'ley)	42	42
M. Swindells (Raf. 'A')	38	31
North.—W. Finney (Burlington)	32	26
R. Musker (Burlington)	54	46
South 1.—D. Foulis (Lucem)	44	42
W. Burns (Lucem)	42	35
South 2.—A. Silver (Livex 'A')	34	28
J. Polson (Livex 'A')	34	30
F. Roberts (Livex 'A')	34	30
East 1.—B. Townsend (Bal. 'C')	48	46
A. T. Jones (Bal. 'C')	44	40
East 2.—I. Morris (Roby Y.C.)	40	43
R. Thomas (Bal. 'D')	34	30
West 1.—E. Smith (Bron. Spts.)	50	47
R. Cox (W. Y.M. J. 'A')	30	26
West 2.—J. Muller (Hoylake 'A')	32	27
E. Morris (Cosco)	52	48
West 3.—K. Peters (Thingwall)	44	36
R. Hollingsworth ('A')	30	25
West 4.—T. White (R.A.F. (W.K.))	30	25
A. McColl (R.A.F. (W.K.))	44	39

# They Deserve Mention

# Players Who Have Improved

It is impossible in the space at our command to fully cover all the outstanding performances achieved by teams during the season, but the following are some which deserve special mention.

Congratulations therefore to:—

**BALFOUR "C"** (East 1st) for being the only side to maintain a 100 per cent. League record, and for their outstanding performances in the Hyde Cup.

**BALFOUR "A"** (1st Div.) for giving their first team a very big fright in the fourth round of the Readman Cup and forcing them to a replay.

**CADWA "A"** (South 2nd) for gaining promotion in their first season, with a side of young and quite inexperienced players.

**ENGLISH ELECTRIC** (North) for staging the best improvement of the season after a very indifferent start, and including in their run the only defeat of the champions, Burlington.

**R.A.F., W.K.** (West 4th), whose set average of 163—17 is easily the best of the season.

**ST. MICHAEL'S** (4th Div.) for their double defeat of the Second Division champions, Bibby's, in the Readman and Maxwell Fyfe Cups.

**THORNDALE** (West 1st) for the magnificent performances in cup matches, by their Nos. 1 and 2, J. D. Gallagher and J. Morgan, who in nine cup-ties between them won 34 out of a possible 36 sets.

**WALLASEY Y.M. JRS.** (3rd Div.), who were the only side to beat Bohemians in League matches, and gained a number of outstanding Cup successes.

**VERNONS** (West 2nd) and **AIGBURTH "A"** (4th Div.) who, despite losing every match (Vernons had one walk-over), never failed to turn out a full side, or to show that "they could take it"

Many players in the League have this season shown a remarkable improvement in their playing ability. To enumerate them all is impossible, but the following tables show a comparison between this season and last in some of the outstanding cases.

			P. W.
H. Critchley...	39-50	Balfour 'B'..	44 23
	50-51	Balfour 'C'.	46 39
J.H. Dickenson	49-50	Balfour 'B'.	44 27
	50-51	Balfour 'C'.	48 40
E. Falvey .....	49-50	Dom. Miss..	28 9
	50-51		34 21
K. Field .....	49-50	W.Y.M. J 'A'	34 20
	50-51		40 34
W. Finney .....	49-50	Waterloo Pk	38 20
	50-51	Burlington ..	32 26
N. R. Jones ...	49-50	Balfour .....	44 22
	50-51		38 44
T. Larkin .....	49-50	L'acre M.C.	40 18
	50-51		40 29
K. Lawton .....	49-50	Elm Hall ...	20. 8
	50-51		20 14
I. Longstaffe...	49-50	Eng. Elec...	34 14
	50-51		46 30
E. Mandeluff...	49-50	L'pool Y.M.	38 21
	50-51		36 21
R. Musker .....	49-50	Burlington .	20 11
	50-51		54 46
C. Parr .....	49-50	Livex 'A' ...	30 5
	50-51		32 19
T. Partington..	49-50	Balfour 'B'.	42 20
	50-51	Balfour 'C'.	40 30
A. Richards ...	49-50	Aigburth L.	22 5
	50-51		38 30
T. Shacklady..	49-50	Hamilton M	22 6
	50-51		30 16
A. Silver .....	49-50	Livex 'A'....	28 7
	50-51		34 28
W. Strodder ...	49-50	W. Y.M. Jrs	40 18
	50-51		46 41
I. Morris .....	49-50	Oakhill 'B'.	22 11
	50-51	Roby Y.C...	40 34

# First Win In Last Match

Most of you will agree that this has been a record season, both with matches and other special events. It is remarkable that, despite the severe winter with its 'flu epidemic, all fixtures have been completed to schedule, and although everyone is now looking forward to other activities—should we, of course, have a decent summer—I'm sure quite a number of new enthusiasts will be keen to keep up practice during the closed season in readiness for next season's programme.

We still have two important events to look forward to—the Closed tournament and the river cruise to celebrate our 25th anniversary, and I am sure they will both come up to the excellent standard always achieved by our League.

While on the subject of the tournament I was a little surprised that a large number of players have not entered. There are one or two clubs with a "100 per cent. non-entry."

## FIVE SETS MARGIN

First to my mind is Littlewoods, who have done so well this season, only just losing to Rafter's "A" by five sets the championship of the Second Division, and who, with Rafter's, will be promoted to the First Division next season. I think the tournament is a grand opportunity of testing your skill against players whom you never have an opportunity of meeting in the matches, apart from the valuable experience gained. I often hear the cry: "We never get any practice against better players." Here is one of the opportunities.

It is encouraging that we are gradually attracting a number of new and younger players, who play a nice open game, though it is a pity there are not more girl teen-agers, as they are given such wonderful opportunities these days with the coaching scheme.

Congratulations to Balfour on winning the League championship, though Olive and her team must have felt rather quaky when Bibby's forced them to a draw in their last match, thus reducing their lead by one point. Olive, as everyone knows, is one of the stalwarts of the League and is always ready, whether winner or loser, to give

credit to her opponents.

Rafter's came a close second and, no doubt, will feel well consoled by winning the Bartholomew Cup.

## SURPRISE WIN

Most other clubs have kept their position well, Oakhill pulling their socks up in the second half of the season to finish fifth. Win. Hignett (Oakhill) sprang a surprise in their last match by winning her first set of the season against Anfield, thus depriving them of a very valuable point, which might have saved Anfield from relegation.

They swapped places with Waver-tree C.C., when last month they took good advantage against Aigburth, who were playing two reserves, gaining two points. However, judging by their much improved standard and keenness, I don't think it will be long before both teams will be seeking promotion again, though they will have a hard, uphill fight, as one or two of the clubs in the Second Division have also improved tremendously.

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to the clubs and their members in the lower half of the Second Division who have played all their matches, but unfortunately cannot boast of many successes. I think they deserve a pat on the back, as in their case it is much more difficulty to keep up interest and support, than for clubs who are in a happier position higher up in the division.

## GREAT RECORD

What a season this has been for the Balfour Club. Two championships of the League - men and women's - and the leadership of three other divisions, Fourth and East 1 and 2, plus three cups, the Maxwell Fyfe, Hyde and Forrest, is a record that is likely to last a long time in the League's history.

Their success in the Hyde Cup final is dealt with elsewhere, sufficient to say that they won the Maxwell Fyfe by beating Wallasey Juniors 6-3, with one set left unplayed, and the Forrest by beating again Lucem 6-4.

George Williams, their secretary, has every right to feel proud of his club.



## Interest Remained To The End

So the last rally is over! The final score-cards have been filled in; the visitors have departed, and it's time to switch out the lights and close the clubroom doors on season 1950-51.

It's a good sign when the last League fixture seems to come round much too soon, and that's what I've heard more players say this season than ever before. At any rate there's no danger of staleness or boredom while that feeling exists:—

And now, to review the season's events.

First, congratulations to the four champion teams:—First Division: Wallasey Jrs. "A" (D. Richards, T. Morton, K. Fields, S. Gibson, and R. Cox). Second Division: Cosco (N. Sumner, S. Leather, H. Tozer, J. Brown, E. Morris, and A. Barnes). Third Division: Thorndale "A" (T. F. Moss, J. Meakin, G. C. Dixon, W. L. Collis, D. Lind, and J. Caley). Fourth Division: R.A.F., West Kirby (T. White, H. Gillson, A. McColl, N. Ellis, and W. Sewell).

In each case the secret of their success has been teamwork and consistency from No. 1 to No. 5, and if the same players are available next season all four should acquit themselves well in their new spheres.

### GREAT FINISH

The runners-up were:—First Division: Thorndale (J. Morgan, J. D. Gallagher, J. S. Bebecca, P. O'Connell, and S. E. Caley). Second Division: Burrowdale (H. C. Sharpe, W. R. Lonsdale, E. Baird, G. M. Sharpe, and N. H. Holland). Third Division: Thingwall (K. Peters, W. Blundell, R. Mahon, E. Gaunt, and P. Heaps). Fourth Division: Birkenhead Jrs. "A" (J. Kaighin, A. Rivett, N. Rye, N. Edwards, G. Edge, and A. Cartwright).

It was Birkenhead Jrs. "A" who nearly pulled off the biggest surprise of the season. Coming up with a rush at the finish, like Steve Donoghue on a Derby winner, they all but overtook R.A.F., West Kirby, being beaten out of first place only on sets average. The crucial game of the season was the meeting between the two teams on February 20, when the R.A.F. suffered their only defeat—4-6. The turning points of the match was J. Kaighin's win over T. White, 21-10, 20-22, 21-19.

While it is natural for the limelight

to focus on the leading teams, I do feel that a special word of praise is due to some of the weaker teams for the way they have kept going despite all setbacks. Enthusiasm comes easily to a team riding a wave of success, but it takes courage and sportsmanship to be a good loser week after week.

I have in mind particularly Vernons (R. Holland, H. Owen, E. Davies, T. Bassnett, B. Tomkinson, and P. Atkinson), and Thingwall "A" (J. Hawdon, W. G. Faulkner, T. Dorritt, C. Sherlock, L. Barton, and A. Murphy).

Among the most improved teams of the season I rate SS. Mary and Paul (W. Jones, W. Jackson, J. Sweeney, R. Roberts, A. Oakden, and O. Williams) and Neston (S. Smith, J. Maddox, T. Barker, R. Millington, M. Gray, and M. Grant). Both teams made a shaky start, but if their form in the concluding weeks could have been produced throughout the season they would have been serious contenders for Divisional honours.

Incidentally, since left-hander Bill Jones, No. 1 for SS. Mary and Paul, invested in a new bat his play has improved remarkably and his newfound confidence inspired not only himself, but the whole team, which has now developed into a very promising side.

Out at Neston also, the prospects seem brighter now than they have been for some time.

### NO ALIBIS

Turning to the Hyde Cup, we have at last had to bow the knee and the trophy now rests in the East Region with Balfour "C." Congratulations to them and to their South Region neighbours, Lucem, the runners-up. They each beat a West Region team in the semi-finals so we have no alibis! However, we shall do our best to return the compliment next season and ensure the departure of the Cup being only a temporary one.

It may prove consoling to study the statistics published elsewhere in this issue concerning the Hyde Cup games between teams in the four Regions. These show that the West First has easily the best record with 76 per cent. wins. Next comes East, then North, and in fourth place is West Second Division.

(Continued on P. 19)

# Great Season For Basil Townsend

Bewitched, blissful, and slightly bewildered would well describe my condition as the time comes to sum up the events of the season.

Readers of my first article may recall the reference made to the Hyde Cup, and my ambition to see this trophy won by a team from the East Region. I was present at the final, so you can imagine my feelings as I watched the cup being presented to Jim Dickenson, the captain of Balfour "C." Well done, Balfour!

Congratulations also to Bohemians "A" and Osterley, who had a splendid cup run, and proved themselves grand cup fighters in defeating some really formidable teams.

Balfour "C" also won the league championship and were, without a doubt, the team of the season, not only for their achievements but for the way they welded together as a team. Only three times were they called on to field a reserve, otherwise the team has been unchanged throughout.

## FINE RECORD.

Last season Basil Townsend was just another player, unknown, and going steadily along with Nelta, but this term he has reached the heights of regional play. In league matches he was undefeated, and in the Hyde Cup he played 12 and won 10. The East Region tournament saw him emerge the winner, and for the regional representative team he played six and won four. A record to be proud of indeed.

I have selected three young players from this region, who may emulate the feats of Townsend next season. They are Bill Cunningham (Cadwa), Ian Morris (Roby) and Geoff Baker

(Bohemians).

Division Two of the Region showed Balfour "D", Bohemians "B" and Roby staging a great finish for the league leadership. Balfour again came out on top, with the Bohemians and Roby dead-heating for second place.

The honours of this division go to R. Thomas, of Balfour "D", who was undefeated in league matches. Next in line come Ian Morris and Ben Fell, both of Roby.

We recently had the pleasure of entertaining a team of ladies from the West Region, and succeeded in beating them 6-4. It turned out to be one of the finest matches I have ever seen this season. Both teams were evenly matched and the games were played at a terrific pace.

Muriel Willcox (Osterley) produced backhand driving that was a joy to watch for accuracy and consistency; while Mae Alcock (Bohemians) and Beryl Ward (Anfield), were superb in defence against some big hitting by the West ladies.

Moya Pattison (Bohemians) has never played better; in fact every stroke she made, seemed to come straight out of the copy book. Pat Spranger (East-Wavertree), making her debut in competitive table tennis, gave a bright performance. Her sound defence, coupled with a hard-hitting attack, show that we can expect even better things to come.

At the end of the match, Secretary Harry Holland of the West, paid a nice little tribute to both teams, a tribute that was heartily endorsed by all who were present.

I am now going to enter into a state of hibernation until next winter, but before I do, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all concerned for the support and co-operation they have given me, and a special word of thanks to secretaries George Burgovne (Osterley) and Reg Gray (Anfield). For these two nothing was too much trouble in their efforts to help me.

Well, that's all for now folks see you next winter; that is, if you don't see me first.

## Lucem Still Climbing Ladder

Are Lucem gong to emulate the achievements of Acacia and Bibby's and climb up the league ladder to its topmost rung?

Last season they signalled their post-war revival by winning the Second Division of the Region and so gained promotion to the First Division. This season they have won the Region championship and so will pass out of our sphere to higher flights.

It will be interesting to watch their progress and to see if they can win themselves back to exalted heights which they filled with some distinction in pre-war days.

### NEVER FAILED

Undoubtedly a great deal of their success has been due to the leadership, inspiration, and ability of Don Foulis. As their No. 1 he has never failed to win his two sets in the League matches in which he has played. Both he and his team-mate, W. Burns, hold the best individual records in the division and the inspiration which they have given to their team has helped to carry them through the season without defeat. Indeed, the only point they dropped was when the Technical Students sprang a surprise by forcing them to a draw.

Only serious challengers to their supremacy was from Wavertree Community, but even that faded somewhat when the Gasmen beat them in December in their first league meeting. Wavertree, however, can take

some consolation from the fact that it was two of their players, D. Sayer and Mrs. E. Palmer, who carried off the singles titles in the Region tournament.

To Aigburth "B" has fallen the questionable distinction of having gone through the season without gaining a point—a distinction they share with their "A" team in the Fourth Division. But let us admire the great spirit of both teams, who undaunted by defeat after defeat still turned up for more. Better luck to them next season.

Indeed I would like to see several of our more lowly-placed teams acquire strength, for at present the Region is not as well balanced as it might be. There is too big a gap between the top clubs and the bottom ones.

Outstanding in the Second Division has been the success of Livex "A" and Cadwa "A," newcomers to the league, who have finished first and second respectively. The former gained their position without defeat. Throughout they have shown themselves a workmanlike side from top to bottom and have been especially well served by J. Polson, F. Roberts, and A. Silver.

Cadwa's sting has often been in their tail and much of the team's success has been due to the lower position players. They should prove themselves workmanlike opponents in the First Division next season.

*For Repairs and Decorations Consult*

# JOHN HINDSON

**21a, Duke Street — Liverpool 1**

**DECORATOR ROYal 4709 CONTRACTOR**

## They Kept Their Promise

I have not the privilege to tell of glorious success or magnificent failure. The winter months have tested our stamina and provided us with a variety of elements to survive, but during them the Region quietly and sedately carried out its obligations.

Burlington began the season at the top and Rafter's "C" at the bottom and so they remained throughout; neither side ever being seriously challenged for their respective distinctions.

Unfortunately the Region is so badly balanced that quite a number of matches were one-sided. Between the first three clubs there is only a difference of six points, but between the sixth and seventh positions there is a margin of ten points.

Burlington are old members of the league. They are worthy champions of our region and a team of sportsmen. I was present when their run of 14 matches without defeat was ended by English Electric on their own table. They took that 6-4 defeat smilingly and ungrudgingly.

### CAPABLE SIDE.

Their success has been due to a capable side from No. 1 to No. 5. Their No. 1, M. Marison, is indisputably the Region's top class player. Bill Finney, who was No. 2 until the end of January, would have also played for the Region had not business taken him to Swindon. K. Musker, at No. 4, is the region's top scorer with 31 sets out of a possible 34.

If we turn back to the first issue of the Digest we read Les Perons, the Burlington secretary, saying, "My club are out for championship honours."

Bootle Y.M.C.A. and English Electric will be forces which will require strong opposition next season. Bootle is easily the youngest side in our league. They have a fine spirit and their play is built on attacking principle. The club has also a wealth of reserves. McKinnell who only came into the team at No. 5 at the beginning of February. Has won 14 sets out of a possible 14. The team's No. 1, A. Harris, is a Region team player.

English Electric under the captaincy of Jack Lambert, might well have been champions. They lost three of their first five matches and then finished

the season without further defeat. They were the only team to beat Burlington. In their successful season they have called upon twelve players.

Linacre, Hamilton Mission and Bath Street, were sides of some substance, while Waterloo Park, Brenka Waterloo Dock and Rafter's were always trying without much success. There are some good players among them, in Havard, B. Fenerty and the evergreen Bob Russell, but they must have better support if league positions are to be improved.

So much for the playing side. We must now record the pleasure of new friendships, the splendid support given to the region tournament and the capital idea put forward by Harry Rawcliffe, of Burlington, for a match between the Champions and the Rest of the Region, followed by a supper.

---

## BRETHERTON'S

*BRUSH-VACUUM*

### Chimney Cleaning

—★—

**NO MESS!**

**NO PREPARATION!**

**NO CLEANING UP!**

—★—

*For prompt attention apply:—*

26, *EVERTON RD., L'POOL, 6*

*Telephone: ANField 3510.*

---

## A Great Season Closes

A few weeks ago, with the closing match dates on our notice board, league honours more or less settled and much of the bite gone out of our interest, we were preparing to acknowledge the passing of another epoch in our great game.

It had been a grand performance, the show was over and the curtain was beginning to fall - yet wait! That rumbling noise! What can it be? Crash go the drums! Up go the lights! Swish go the curtains! and on to the stage step three Londoners - three real English people - three World Table Tennis Champions.

Be proud boys, and rejoice in your great game and your own champions. Johnny Leach, and Diane and Rosalind Rowe.

### GRAND TEAM.

With news of such importance, it is perhaps somewhat out of place to dwell upon less sensational events, but with the ending of the season, it is most opportune to look back and reflect on local affairs.

First let me congratulate the league leaders, Hoylake Y.M.C.A. They played grand, sporting table tennis throughout the season and thoroughly merited their success. Next a bouquet to "wooden-spoonists", Convention of Youth, who never gave up trying from the word go.

Now a word of sympathy to Shaftesbury, Greasby, Woodchurch and Heswall, each of whom would have done so much better with a little guidance from a seasoned player. A pat on the back too, to the lads of Birkenhead Boys' Club, who despite the last-mentioned difficulty, have improved immeasurably and will be a menace to the best in future campaigns.

A very big hand also to Ashville. They got entangled in an unfortunate misunderstanding over entry forms at the start of the season and as a result, played all their matches (and played them well) knowing that no matter how they fared, they would not be eligible for honours.

Finally my congratulations to the boys of Rock Ferry St. Anne's who rallied so magnificently after a miserable start caused by internal difficulties.

### SENIOR "HELP"

With so much by way of general comment I would now like to make the following suggestions to all whom it

may concern, namely Youth Division be allowed and encouraged to nominate a senior club (with that club's permission) from which they could obtain the service of any one registered player for each of their matches.

This would mean that each Youth team would have a 'crack' player at No. 1 (not necessarily the same one each week) whose influence on the conduct and play of the younger boys would be profound.

That is only the bare outline of a bold scheme. There are difficulties and objections, but was there ever an idea worthy of the name without them?

I appeal to all my young readers to give the suggestion their earnest consideration and to tell their secretary or leader what they think about it so that, when the matter comes up for discussion at the General Meeting, he, as their representative, will be able to give their views as well as his own.

(Continued from P. 15)

Unfortunately, it is too early to give the destination of the Micklesfield medals for the inter-Regional match champions. Our team, consisting of E. C. Smith (Bronze Sports) W. Postlethwaite (St. Joseph's), J. Morgan (Thorndale), J. D. Gallagher (Thorndale), and M. Donnelly (St. Joseph's) beat East Region 7-3 and North 8-2 and we meet South (at Wavertree C.C.) on April 12. With East beating South 6-4 and North 8-2 the West is in a favourable position, but past experience shows that competition for these medals is intense and the result may be in doubt till the last set of the final match.

The West Region Women's team, comprising P. O'Connell (Thorndale), M. Foster (Claremont), E. Baird (Burrowdale), S. Langley (Creep Inn), and G. M. Sharpe (Burrowdale) met the East in the first inter-regional match ever and lost 4-6 after a most enjoyable and exciting game, but beat North 9-1. There is a return match against East on April 10.

These games have created so much interest and enthusiasm that there is sure to be a big demand for official recognition of the competition, with possibly some suitable trophy, next season.

And now it only remains for me to say au revoir until October.

# Forehand Chop Defence

By Peter Rumjahn

In his article this month Peter Rumjahn deals with the forehand chop shot which, he says, is used to reply to the topspin drive. Here are his hints on how to play it:

**Body position:** A couple of strides back from the table; left shoulder towards the net; feet apart at an angle of about 50 degrees with the baseline of the table; weight on back leg, knee slightly bent.

Swing arm back behind body on forehand side. With elbow slightly bent and bat parallel to net and slightly tilted back, swing forward from the shoulder to meet underside of ball and lift ball back with the swing.

The ball is struck when level with the body or even behind. The height at which it is struck is considerably below the top of the bounce, about waist or thigh high.

The swing is straight forward in line with the flight of the ball, tracing a line through the air like a landing aeroplane. A good follow through will give the ball length and cause it to just clear the top of the net.

## TIPS

Swing along the line of flight of the ball and do not chop vertically across the direction of the ball.

Changing from forehand to backhand attack or defence is done by pivot turns and movements, forward and backward, by chassis.

As final points of advice may I say besides the player's ability the greatest assets towards success are: (a) keenness; (b) good temperament; (c) determined concentration; and (d) patience.

# Recovery After Bad Start

By F. J. Farrell,

After a bad start to the season, losing their first three matches, our "A" team reasonably consolidated their position in the Lancashire League and have not been beaten since.

The team, with only two defeats, have a good chance of finishing as runners-up in the Second Division, for while our own league matches have finished there are still several Lancashire League games to be played. The records of our three teams to date are:

P. W. L. D. F. A. P.

"A" team .....	8	4	1	3	47	33	9
"B" team .....	9	6	1	2	50	40	13
Women .....	6	2	2	2	32	28	6

In recent matches Macclesfield held our "A" team to a draw in a match in which neither side ever held more than a set advantage. It was left to Ted Rumjahn to score a fine win over J. Wardsley to gain the draw. Ted was in top form, winning his three sets, and, with Reg Hetherington, snatched the doubles. Hetherington was our other victor.

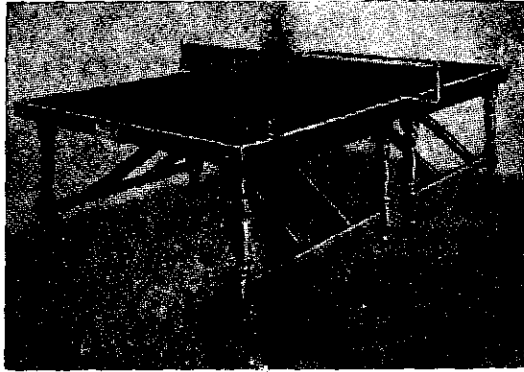
The women's match with Manchester produced play of a high standard, and the honour of the evening went to Bluey May and Jean Titterington. Bluey had convincing victories over Adele Wood and Eileen Grimstone, but failed narrowly to Jean Titterington, who laid the foundation of Manchester's success by her three wins.

The women's other matches against Crewe and Blackpool were alike, not only because they were drawn, but that on each occasion Liverpool recovered from a 5-3 deficit after indifferent starts. Results:—

Macclesfield 5, Liverpool "A" 5;  
Bolton "B" 3, Liverpool "A" 7;  
Liverpool "B" 7, Ellesmere Port 3;  
Manchester "B" 9, Liverpool "B" 1;  
Liverpool "B" 7, Chester 3.

Women: Liverpool 5, Crewe 5; Liverpool 4, Manchester ½; Blackpool 5, Liverpool 5.

# J A Q U E S



Illustrating Jaques' Tournament Table Tennis Table as used for

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

### JAQUES CLUB TOURNAMENT TABLES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

1" (nominal) with Jaques Superfast cellulose playing surface. The playing surfaces of these tables are in every way equal to our pre-war Tournament Table. Fitted with eight square-sectioned folding legs

**Each £40**

including carriage and purchase tax

### DOUBLE RUBBER BATS OF QUALITY

"Haydon" 10/- each

"Hyde" 8/3 each

"Tema" 9/3 each

"Bull" 10/- each

"Pinkie Barnes" 6/6 each

Obtainable from all good Sports Dealers

**JOHN JAQUES & SON LTD.,**  
**White Heather Works, Thornton Heath**

Established since 1795

The Garnett Press, 1 Holden Lane, L'pool 4. (T.A.)