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DIGEST**

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OF THE

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TABLE **DIGEST** TENNIS

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S. D. Cameron.

Vol. 20

MARCH, 1970

No. 4

Editorial

I must open with an apology for the extremely late publication of this month's issue. All kinds of reasons are advanced for late publication of the magazine and this season, as usual, we have had the usual amounts of hints about it at my expense. I don't really mind this, in fact I thrive on it, but I do feel it's time one of the major reasons was highlighted.

Besides the divisional writers there are a number of people who have to submit articles at varying stages of the season and these are published every season, and yet I still have to remind those concerned that material is due. This is always greeted with surprise, followed by vague promises and the required material then arrives, usually at least 10 days later than it should have done. At the time of writing there are eight contributors who have not yet sent in their notes or articles. The score cards were sent out two weeks ago but only four out of eight sets of notes have arrived. Each season I arrange a time-table for each edition and it is invariably ruined by the late supplying of material. The magazine has been in existence for many years and everyone is well aware that we have one issue per month after the New Year. From this it should be obvious that if the magazine is to be published on time then all material should be to hand by the 14th of each month at the latest. We have a good group of divisional writers at the moment but some are still taking too long to write their notes. A week is the most they should need.

Proof that I am right in my statements lies in the fact that I never have to remind our one out-of-town contributor about this as his notes arrive every month promptly. No one has yet succeeded in getting in before him. If everyone who contributes to the magazine followed his example the Editor's work would be made much easier.

Having got that off my chest this is a good time to mention that I am unable to carry on as Editor after this season. This is due only to lack of the necessary time. It is with some regret that I have been compelled to make this decision for I have enjoyed the job immensely. I have tried to make the magazine as interesting and topical as possible but it can be an unrewarding task. In January we produced an issue which several people have said was our best for some time. I anticipated replies to some of the letters published, but there has been little response, in spite of the fact that it is obvious I am prepared to leave out other material to make room for your letters. The fact that the magazine can only remain topical if you answer the letters and articles which appear has still not got home to most of you.

We now need someone to take over the job from me and it is open to any member of the League who would like to take it on.

FAULT!

By Philip Reid

Those who watched the English Open on television must surely have been a little disappointed with the controversy which surrounded Joyner's service. Briefly what happened—and was apparently seen on television (I was there at Crystal Palace so I didn't see the T.V. coverage but saw it 'live')—was that Istvan Joyner, the loose-limbed athlete from Hungary, was playing Stefan Kollarovits of Czechoslovakia in the Final of the Men's Singles. Unfortunately Joyner occasionally served in such a way that the umpire was unable to see the actual service. In other words his stance was such that his body was blocking the umpire's vision of the service. Let us, however, get this point clear. The umpire acted absolutely correctly however much this reflected on Joyner. The first such service was halted with a call of 'Let' and the umpire explained why he had called 'Let.' It is just possible Joyner did not understand the reason but the fact the umpire spoke to him must have convinced him it was not 'Let' for the more usual reason—the ball had touched the net in service.

When a second service, some time after was produced where again the official in charge could not see the ball he acted, I felt, with courage in faulting the offender. He could have pretended he had seen the ball and said nothing. Maybe everyone would have been happy. National Umpires, however, are expected to carry out the laws of the game to the letter and this is what happened.

Not unnaturally Joyner—who is a first-rate sportsman—was most unhappy. An appeal had to go out for the interpreter to come to the officials table to explain the position.

I would rather have expected the interpreter—an important member of the party—to be on hand anyway. Of course at this time thousands were watching their T.V. but instead of thrilling table tennis they saw a dispute on the rules.

Fortunately the whole thing was satisfactorily resolved and the game continued. Kollarovits eventually won, but in my opinion he probably would have done so anyway. It certainly couldn't be called a shock result.

One or two things arise. How could the incident have been avoided? As I've already said, the umpire could have ignored the fact he couldn't see the ball. All the umpire did was observe No. 9 in the Appendix to the laws of the game. Couldn't he move his chair? I would think not. After all, how is the umpire going to be sure he can see from another spot? A service judge? Perhaps a possibility but there appears to be nothing anywhere which allows one to be appointed. Had Joyner been pulled up before? I hadn't seen him so I can't answer that. Certainly if any umpire couldn't see the ball he should have been.

It should not, though, be difficult to produce a service which is visible to the umpire—99% of the players do it easily enough. Providing umpires are consistent in applying this law there can surely be no repercussions.

Our umpires are regarded as some of the best in the world. Requests for them to officiate at World and European championships prove that.

Just one incident—in an earlier round it would have gone unnoticed but what a pity it took up valuable T.V. time!

Net Cords

By John Molynéux

Stand up and take a bow, John Hoban (W'tree Lab.) and Tony Cohen (L'pool Jewish) who must have set up a record by causing the expedite rule to be put into force during the Hyde Cup Final. Mind you, it was 18-14 in the 3rd, I believe, that two other gentlemen well acquainted with the rule considered it almost an insult to their ability to boare.

:: :: :: :: ::

Mounting one of my favourite hobby-horses may I relate a satisfying incident? A certain character in the 1st division, well-known for his suspect service, was actually warned about it at 15-14 in the first. He lost 14 and 8, worthwhile sticking to the rules, isn't it?

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At the time of writing I'm not sure how much interest has been shown in the Cadwa end-of-season dance. But I'm sure that if Val Lee had included her phone number on the adverts, the enquiries would have doubled!

:: :: :: :: ::

I enjoyed Keith Fitzsimmons' article last issue (sorry, I almost said last month!) in which he was to discuss the three main topics in the league at present. At least I enjoyed the discussion of two items, the third apparently being censored. Hard luck, Keith, I know how you feel.

:: :: :: :: ::

This season I've been playing in the Business Houses League and have discovered that they have a Consolation Cup for teams knocked out in the 1st round of the cup. This seems to me a great idea and one that the Liverpool League should "steal", along with the one about the Annual Dance.

:: :: :: :: ::

I hear that Colonsay have jumped the gun and are the first club to use yellow balls; possibly they don't develop goose-pimples as quickly as the white ones.

:: :: :: :: ::

I see the Liverpool YMCA established another first, a player making his first appearance for his club in the Readman Cup Final. Surely this loop-hole in the rules must be plugged with at least a couple of league games qualification needed.

:: :: :: :: ::

Roy Jones has been talking about this being his last full season in the league. I don't know whether he is more serious than someone else we all know but if he is, I'd like to be the first to congratulate him on a fine career.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I would like to reply to Tony Arthur's remarks about Linnets in his divisional notes. Firstly, he states that Linnets 'gleefully' claimed the match against Cheshire Lines. I can tell him that the Linnets team were anything but gleeful at wasting a night because another team could not bother to turn up. Mr. Arthur thinks that they could not find Linnets clubroom, however, but I think that Liverpool F.C. having a cup replay on the same night could have been the reason. Mr. Arthur then states that he could not find Linnets and wandered around Liverpool 8 and 17 from 7.30 until 10 p.m. I do not know what he was doing in Liverpool 8, which is the Upper Parliament St. area. Our club directions in the Handbook state quite clearly which buses go to Lark Lane. Therefore, next time Mr. Arthur has to come to Linnets I suggest he buys himself a Liverpool street map or he might end up in Bootle or Crosby. As a last resort, however, he could ask his team members who managed to find their way alright.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE MORGAN (Linnets T.T.C.).

:: :: :: :: ::

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank Messrs. John Molyneux and Rob Lock for their very kind wishes expressed in the "Digest" for my recovery after a recent illness. Unfortunately I have been unable to play this season and it is most heartening to learn that you have not been forgotten.

I am now well on the way to recovery and hope to "do battle" again next season.

Yours faithfully,

TIM MCCOY (Panto T.T.C.).

:: :: :: :: ::

Dear Sir,

After automatically signifying agreement to stand again for election as Fixture Secretary, I have been thinking more deeply about the subject.

As the longest serving member of the committee I have seen the committee form up and become 'old hands.' Table Tennis is a young man's game and administrative bodies need at least some young blood to add their ideas and energies to the older hands. Believing new blood is necessary I would earnestly request you all to seriously consider joining the committee. If anyone is willing to take over Fixture Secretary I will gladly stand down and will only be too happy to lend a hand whenever possible if required.

Yours faithfully,

EDDIE CAMBRON (Hon. Fixture Sec.).

:: :: :: :: ::

Dear Sir,

I read with interest correspondence on 3 or 5 in a team and offer the following advantages of 3-a-Side:

1. It is always easier to raise a team.
2. The team tend to travel together in one car and thus arrive together.
3. If the number of teams from one club is limited to two *per division* this tends to spread players around.
4. Some clubs might nominate four players per team and thus spread the games around between themselves.

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Editor, and your staff on turning out this magazine which must be of tremendous interest to Liverpool players.

Incidentally, I never played against a young lady like the one on Page 2 in my young days.

Yours sincerely,

ERNIE HYDE.

Editor. Mr. Hyde is himself an ex-Liverpool League player and is a Vice-President of our League. He enclosed a small donation with his letter which we gratefully acknowledge.

Dear Sir,

Let me be the first to congratulate St. Edward's on their 10-0 walk-over claim against Wavertree Labour 'C'. Well done, St. Edward's! Their sportsmanship, however, leaves much to be desired. Bearing in mind that with a large club like ours somewhere along the line mistakes can happen, our secretary (all is forgiven) had omitted to let our 'C' team players know of the change of match night, for which he has accepted the responsibility. Of course, it couldn't happen to a *little club* like St. Edward's (or could it?).

As it happens, last season when W'tree Lab. 'C' played St. Edward's at their club all our team were present on time. It was a really bad night, snow, ice, etc., to which the St. Edward's conditions were not suited with regard to heating. They were short of players. The match got off to a late start. By 9-20 they had only 3 players. Being captain of W'tree Lab. I agreed to their request to phone for players. The match finished at 11-45 p.m. and at considerable expense we had to get taxis home. One player got home at 12-30 a.m. and myself and another player arrived home at 12-05 a.m. At the time of this match we were in line for promotion and as the rules state 7-30 start, etc., I could have applied this last season, bearing in mind the final result of that night. But as I belong to a more sporting club than St. Edward's I chose not to do so, much to my regret now. We held on until their players arrived and completed the match.

I realise that other teams have had walk-overs as well as St. Edward's but under different circumstances. However, rules are rules to which St. Edward's have adhered, but I wonder why they did not even answer the letter which our secretary sent explaining what had happened. Could it be they are too ashamed of what they have done to even be able to write about it?

Until this walk-over was claimed the season had been full of interest with little between ourselves and St. Edward's. Each awaited the other's result for news of dropped sets. Every match was like a cup-tie. The rivalry was keen and friendly, which is the way it should be. The last five weeks of the season have now become unimportant for results mean nothing. We will still get promoted but we will never know who would have been proved the better team. Victory for St. Edward's has become very hollow indeed. Are medals really worth resorting to such tactics? I very much doubt it. Better to have played and lost than not to have played at all.

What an inglorious end to what had been such an interesting season for both teams!

Yours faithfully,

BRIAN JESSOP (W'tree Lab. T.T.C.).

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The Cost of the "Open"

By Don Cameron

It was decided by the Committee that we should try to establish our Open Tournament as a "Graded" tournament by the E.T.T.A. and to do this it was necessary to conform to the special conditions laid down by the E.T.T.A. The one item that affected us cash-wise was the giving of prizes in cash and you can see from the summary that these cost us £105, most of this being in cash. It was obvious that this first effort would result in a loss and in fact, although some items are estimated, the loss of £29 is much smaller than was originally estimated. Considerable efforts were made to find our own sponsors for this event and in fact over 50 letters were sent to local business houses but all we received were good wishes from the few who replied.

If we do receive recognition by way of being graded then we can expect some financial support in future, but if we do not then obviously, in my opinion, we cannot afford to run this event each year on the same scale as this.

£	INCOME	£	£	EXPENDITURE	£
82	Entry Fees	131	8	E.T.T.A.	7
9	E.T.T.A.	7	3	Master Points	2
6	Door	10	6	Balls	4
2	Catering Profit	2	27	Prizes	105
	Draw	4	15	Printing	19
	Loss	29	1	Insurance	1
			12	Cartage	22
			7	Players' Expenses	4
			4	Gratuities	2
			7	Refreshments	10
			5	Sundry	7
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The Merseyside Open

By Brian Leeson

The prospects of "Graded Status" for the Merseyside next season and the importance of everything going off well kept those concerned extremely busy during the weeks before the 'Open' and the fact that everything did not go as smoothly as we would have liked was, I suppose, only to be expected.

Due to the necessity to increase the entry fees to help cover the vastly increased prize costs there was a sharp drop in local entries and it became unnecessary to have any Friday evening play. We had to try and retrieve this money by some means, especially as we had no sponsorship, and the raising of entry fees was an automatic necessity. This may not have met with everyone's approval but a study of the finance report of the tournament will show that it was certainly justified.

To comply with one of the "Graded Status" conditions a time schedule of events had been prepared and was prominently displayed. A great deal of work went into preparing this time-table and, despite a 15 minute late start, the times more or less worked out as estimated, until the later stages when the Mixed Doubles once again caused delay. In spite of this time-table being on display, and kept to, the number of players making enquiries re times of various events did not show any decrease from previous years. The Finals started 45 mins. late at 8-15 p.m. This compared favourably with some of the 'Open' tournaments I have watched this season. They were concluded at 11 p.m. without any upsetting results.

The entry for the Men's Singles was not as strong as in previous years and it was also necessary to scratch two seeded players due to non-attendance. This gave the Men's Singles event in particular a rather lopsided appearance, both scratched seedings coming from the same half of the draw. It also meant that Denis Neale won the title without ever being extended. This did, however, result in the well-deserved and very popular appear-

ance in the Men's Final of Derek Scholfield. He defeated P. Abell 17 and 15 in the semi-final, but lost to Neale 15 and 14 in the Final. The other losing semi-finalist was Mike Johns who lost to Neale 7 and 17.

The Finals were very poorly attended, but I think the absence of the two seeds had something to do with this. Those present did see, however, some very fine doubles matches which helped to compensate for the Men's Singles event. The Mixed Doubles final was by far the best of the evening and the audience were not slow to show their appreciation of this closely contested set. The partnership of Mike Johns and Maureen Robson finally getting home 21-19 in the third against Neale and Sue Howard.

Another see-saw struggle took place in the Men's Doubles when Neale and Ransome beat Johns and Landry 21-17 in the third. The Women's Doubles was also a 3-gamer in which the Howard sisters defeated Bashford and Robson again at 21-17 in the third.

I must express my sincere thanks to all those who assisted in the running of the tournament, both local players, our own officials and the non-Liverpool League officials for their voluntary assistance. Lack of space prevents me naming them in person. I, the Referee, am very grateful for their many contributions. Unfortunately the helpers were the same few who always assist but if we achieve the hoped for "Graded Status" then we will need far more assistance next season from local players than we get at present. There was far too much dependence on the non-Liverpool League officials and the regular local helpers for voluntary assistance when this assistance should have been forthcoming from our own officials and the local players.

The League's thanks must also go to Dunlops Sports Co. for once again allowing us the use of this fine venue in which to stage our Tournament and for which we are extremely grateful.

'Around the Divisions

Division 1.

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
L'pool YM	23	21	2	0	199
Eng. Elec.	22	22	0	0	195
W'tree Lab.	21	19	2	0	152
L'pool YM 'A'	24	12	10	2	115
Mossley Hill	23	11	8	4	115
W'tree Lab. 'A'23	8	11	4	113	
Rafters	24	10	12	2	107
W'tree Lab. 'B'23	9	11	3	106	
Beauclair	24	6	14	4	100
Colonsay	22	8	11	3	98
Eng. Elec. 'A'	23	7	13	3	92
Bath St.	24	5	15	4	91
W'loo Park	23	5	15	3	90
Cadwa	21	1	20	0	27

Division 2.

By Keith Fitzsimmons

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Linnets	22	22	0	0	198
Colonsay 'A'	22	13	5	4	134
Trinity	21	16	2	3	133
Knotty Ash	21	16	3	2	130
Linacre	23	12	10	1	122
Colonsay 'B'	23	12	8	3	121
Police	22	9	9	4	111
Crawfords	23	9	9	5	108
University	22	9	12	1	97
Trinity 'A'	22	5	14	3	95
Sparta	21	7	12	2	93
W'loo Pk. 'A'	23	4	16	3	78
L'pool YM 'B'	22	3	18	1	75
Eng. Elecl 'B'	23	0	19	4	55

With the season nearing completion the promotion and relegation issues are still far from settled. Trinity, Colonsay 'A' and Knotty Ash are still battling for second place and it is still anybody's guess which of these teams will accompany Linnets into Division 1. At the time of writing Colonsay have 134 points from 22 matches, Knotty Ash 124 from 20 and Trinity 120 from 19. At the bottom, relegation seems now certain for English Elec. 'B', W'loo Park 'A' and L'pool YM 'B' with the other place still to be decided, probably between Trinity 'A' and Sparta.

L'pool YM 'B' seem to be setting up a mutual aid society with a couple of clubs. When they played W'loo Park earlier in the season W'loo turned up with only 4 players. A little later in the season the Y.M.

played with 4 players at Eng. Elec. and in the return, guess what—Eng. Elec. turn up with four players. I know many clubs support the idea of 4-a-Side but starting your own 4-a-Side league is not quite the thing.

The duel between the two Colonsay teams resulted in a draw with no less than 8 sets going to three. I wonder what time the match finished? My sympathies must go to Alan Guy in this match for he lost both his sets 23-21 in the third. Good performances were put up by D. Goodwin of the 'B' team in beating Les French two straight and Brian Leeson, also of the 'B' team, in beating Harry Nelson 14 in the third.

Linnets have added the Rumjahn Cup to their already won league title. They won by 3 sets after two drawn games with Knotty Ash. The first match was undoubtedly the most exciting with every call going the way of the team that picked it. This meant that Linnets, as the away team, led right through to 5-4 and had to win the last set to take home the cup. Their captain, Frank Thomas, was the man to play and fortunately for Knotty Ash he was defeated in the third game. The replay was fixed for a week later. Before writing about this match I must have a moan. The Jewish club was again picked as the venue, but did anybody tell them? Most of the players and the official in charge were waiting outside the club for 30 minutes before one of the players went to the secretary's house to get a key to let us in. About an hour later Mrs. D. Cohen, who provided excellent refreshments, arrived—she only found out the match was on at 7-45 p.m. on the day. I wonder who is at fault here? This time Knotty Ash won the toss and again calls went as picked until at 3-all John Baron beat myself to make it 4-3 to Linnets. Phil Blake then beat Derek Dorman and Linnets were 5-3 up. Knotty Ash then put Derek straight on again and this produced a very good win for him over Tony Green and made it 5-4. This left Barry Clarke to play Keith Jackson. Earlier in the season Keith had beaten Barry but there was no

stopping Clarke this time and he produced some fine table tennis to win two straight and make it another draw. The sets were counted and Linnets took the cup by 3 sets. In closing I would like to mention the fine play of Ian Burrows, Knotty Ash, in his first season back after a bad road accident, and for Linnet's Phil Blake — their best player, winning all his sets in the two matches.

Division 3A By Eddie Cameron

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
L'pool Jewish	23	22	0	1	191
Sefton	22	19	3	0	167
Stanley House	24	14	8	2	144
L'pool YM 'C'	21	15	4	2	135
Maghull	22	13	7	2	130
Bath St. 'A'	22	12	6	4	121
Vagabonds	23	11	8	4	112
Police 'A'	23	8	14	1	105
Crawfords 'B'	23	9	12	2	102
W'tree Lab. 'D'	21	6	13	2	82
Linnets 'A'	22	4	15	3	81
University 'A'	20	5	13	2	70
Cadwa 'A'	22	2	19	1	60
L'pool Jew 'B'	21	1	18	2	50

It was interesting to read the challenge from that other lot in 3B. I wonder why confined to the first three; is it because below that they think their chances diminish? I am all in favour of any competition between the divisions. How about 3B secretaries or team captains inviting their opposite numbers to play on the 3B tables—we could afford to give this advantage. They could, I suggest, invite the team of equal league placing to their own in this issue of the "Digest." Send your score cards to me marked "Grudge Match" and I will pass them on to Rob Lock for audit to confirm the amount 3A have won by.

Our Cup is a little bit nearer home. Since I last wrote Liverpool Jewish have narrowed the odds to 'evens' by assuring themselves of a Final place after a hard fought match with St. Edward's which finished up 6-4. Highlight to me was an old fashioned encounter between John Dancaster and Basil Townsend which went the way of the opposition. Eddie Johnson was perhaps the match winner but it was a good all round effort. W'tree Labour are likely to provide equally strong opposition in the

Final, they have already beaten St. Edward's in the league.

Visiting Bath St. last week we took a twenty minutes walk of inspection around the car park prior to the match, we had to, we could not get in until 8 p.m. Jewish will probably be pleased to see the mantle of late-comers move over. Tony Cohen had a go at Crawfords recently, they opened up well enough but were unable to produce a net for a quarter of an hour and Tony is insisting that other teams' shortcomings are publicised. Bath St. were without John Coveney but Cyril Smith was still plodding on. Edwards at No. 1 was aggressive and yet steady enough to win his games, he beat both John Roper and Pete Wilkinson both of whom have been playing very well and improving match by match to form the backbone of Crawford's middle of the table team. J. Letch at No. 2 for Bath St. is another who plays better than he looks as a player; C. Thompson, who played No. 4 is, I believe, a reserve—he showed considerable promise but like many another player found Mabel Francis who is a regular reserve for Crawford's, far too strong. Mabel must be the strongest 'reserve' in the division. P. Harcombe played also as a reserve, I was told, but this Bath St. side was not quite as good as it looked earlier in the season and there is little hope of them breaking into the top four. Their club room is one of the best in the league and I hope we visit them on the coldest day next winter because their heating was by far the most efficient I have experienced.

Cadwa were in the news recently, failing to lose—they managed a draw at Bath St. L'pool Jewish 'B' managed a draw with University but time is running out and the bottom two places seem fairly well settled. Sefton duly met and lost to Jewish in the return league match and for the third time this season the score line read 6-4.

You will all know by now that Maghull are back in business, they once again made their room ship-shape and are busy catching up on the backlog of matches and are climbing up the table very nicely in the process.

Division 3B

By Rob Lock

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
St. Edward's	21	19	2	0	166
W'tree Lab. 'C'	20	19	0	1	145
Odyssey	20	12	5	3	118
Bath St. 'B'	21	11	4	6	117
Orrell	21	8	9	4	109
Crawfords 'A'	20	11	6	3	107
Hilltop	23	8	9	5	107
Rafters 'A'	22	9	10	3	104
Bootle YM	19	7	8	4	99
L'pool Jew 'A'	21	7	11	3	86
Colonsay 'C'	19	4	13	2	72
Eng. Elec. 'C'	23	2	19	2	67
Beauclair 'A'	22	1	19	2	59

As everyone knows, the main talking point at the moment is the 10-0 walk-over St. Edward's claimed when W'tree Labour failed to turn up.

The league title is now certainly St. Edward's, a title I think, they have been rather lucky to achieve. When a team claims 38 points from three matches in walk-overs during a season, then it's about time the scoring system was changed.

Of course we have rules and St. Edward's are perfectly entitled to do what they have done, but think seriously for a moment on a few points.

Would you have claimed the points with the knowledge that everyone was looking forward to this match and that all interest in the title would wane. I know for a fact that the lads at the Labour Club feel rather 'choked', and so does Ken Armson, as the responsibility falls on his shoulders. I have also heard statements that: "They couldn't wait to claim the points!" "What a way to win a medal!" "They were scared to play the match!"

We now have to draw the line between the enjoyment, fun and sportsmanship of table tennis and the all out, win at all costs table tennis, and if the win at all costs prevails, then I and a great many others will be packing up. To sum up I would say that rules are there to be adhered to and the way they are interpreted is up to the individual club.

Having said all that I would like to mention the kindness of Les Evans and the Crawfords club. Hilltop arrived 48 hours late at Crawfords, due to a mix-up over the match nights. When I explained to Les what had happened he made the sporting gesture of offering me three dates for a new fixture. I accepted and the match was drawn 5-5 with everyone enjoying their night out. Also thanks to Ken Black (Engl. Elec.) and Barry Kite (Bath St.) for help in making the early exit of two Hilltop players possible.

Back to the league table we have Beauclair fighting desperately against relegation. One thing I have noticed is that Ken Hartley, in spite of his side being in great need of points, has had the courage to play all season at No. 1. He has been ably supported by P. Woodhead and John McKim, the former having good victories over Ken Black (Eng. Elec.) and G. Tattersall (Odyssey).

Rafters have pulled clear from danger, due to their unique conditions of gale force winds, sub-zero temperatures, 2 star T. Tennis balls, no toilets and lack of space, which hinders the defensive players, as they have no chance with the angled smash shot as it hits the wall before you can move! But to be fair to Rafters—they make an excellent pot of tea, served with delicious sandwiches.

The Final of the Hyde Cup has just taken place and resulted in a draw. Both sides had their chances to win at the first attempt but let them slip. The match was not devoid of interesting incidents, although played in a very sporting manner between two teams who respect each other's abilities. The match was not concluded until 12-15 a.m., which gives you some idea of what a titanic struggle it was. The result of the replay will be known by the time you read this and my money is on the Labour Club to avenge their defeat in the same Final against the same team and in similar circumstances as last season.

Division 4A.

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Bohemians	20	14	2	4	137
Rafters 'B'	19	12	4	3	134
Palatine	16	16	0	0	127
L.Y.C.A.	19	11	3	5	114
Police 'C'	17	9	4	4	96
W'loo, Pk 'B'	15	9	4	2	86
Knotty Ash 'B'	18	8	8	2	83
Eng. Elec. 'D'	19	5	11	3	78
Bath St. 'D'	20	4	13	3	69
Colonsay 'D'	17	4	12	1	69
Pirates	17	4	10	3	61
Rafters 'C'	18	3	15	0	62
Palatine 'A'	18	1	16	1	50

Division 4B.

By Jack Lambert

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Sparta 'A'	24	22	1	1	197
Police 'B'	23	18	3	2	167
Bohemians 'A'	22	18	2	2	163
Orrell 'A'	24	18	5	1	152
Bath St. 'C'	20	11	6	3	112
St. Edward's 'A'	21	9	9	3	110
University 'B'	21	10	9	2	106
Police 'D'	21	8	10	3	97
Knotty Ash 'A'	23	8	14	1	89
Giro	21	5	13	3	85
Coll. of Tech.	23	3	15	5	78
Colonsay 'E'	24	4	19	1	74
Mossley Hill 'A'	23	5	16	2	70
Eng. Elec. 'E'	23	2	18	3	67

Quite a mound of information this month and some of it very interesting. Sparta suffered their first defeat to a very strong Bohemians side by 7 sets to 3. Jones K. and Holdworth scoring doubles for Bohemians. Two of my last month's 'big build up' men met each other, Leeming beating Rycroft 21-15, 19-21, 21-17. Police 'B' then scored a 6-4 win over Bohemians, thanks to two apiece from Rimmer and Dyson and Police to keep everything fair and square lose to Sparta (Holmes W. and Kneale 2) 6-4 — and we try to pick out eight draws! Just to make things more complicated University (Crayston and Zarzecki Z. 2) nip up to Bohemians and force a magnificent draw. Not to be outdone Orrell stroll down to the Town Hall and beat Police (Lawson 2) 6-4, thanks mainly to Stevenson and Walsh—a very cool win. All excellent stuff and conducive to good table tennis. What price any of these games—win or lose—to a 10-0 walk-over?

At the other end of the table Colonsay seemed to upset the wooden

spoon battle when they hammered Eng. Elec. 9-1 and Mossley Hill 8-2, Barbara Williams (why don't you wear high heels?), Ellis and Brooke winning most of the games. The much improved Electric team came back fighting and had a good 6-4 win over St. Edward's and a nice draw with Giro, Johnson and Hunter showing top form in both games—two from Ormston saved the day for Giro.

Orrell have carried all before them this session and are undefeated. Ladies Div. please note—Lil Jenkins is now in Beirut. Police 'D' beat Eng. Elec. 6-4 with two wins from Birch and Hopkinson and lost to Knotty Ash. Bath St. have faded after a good start but beat St. Edward's (McCann 2) 6-4 with Spencer and Cunningham winning 2.

Crayston (Univ.) is one of many players who is not always on the winning side but puts out some excellent displays, others include Wood and Mayne (Giro), Hall (Knotty Ash), he lost to Dyson 32-34, 16-21, but beat Rimmer. Patel (Coll. of Tech.) beat Brint 18 in the third. All have many other good wins.

A good night for Sturgess of Mossley Hill losing in the third to Holmes H. and beating Leeming 19 in the third.

Division 5.

By Ken Armson

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Stan. House 'A'	19	15	2	2	132
Old Swan	17	14	0	3	129
Trinity 'B'	18	13	4	1	120
Police 'E'	16	11	4	1	106
W'tree Lab. 'E'	16	7	8	1	95
Cadwa 'B'	17	6	7	3	86
Vagabonds 'A'	20	7	11	2	81
Maghull 'A'	15	4	8	3	73
Linnets 'B'	18	4	14	0	54
Cheshire Lines	15	4	12	1	40
Maghull 'B'	15	0	15	0	7

S. Kath's Record expunged

Things appear to have gone wrong at S. Kath's, they have now conceded at least three walk-overs and will probably be expelled from the league. This is unfortunate from the division's point of view as they were a strong team who promised to do very well. Like the University their season is disrupted by students going home for term breaks and this

causes problems with fixtures. Their captain, Tony Arthur, was un-defeated and would probably have remained so, even if they had completed their fixtures. Their exit brings the number of drop-outs up to three. This is always one of the risks involved in playing in the bottom division in the league for if a team is going to drop out it will invariably be in this division. All credit then to Maghull 'B', ably led by Audrey Short, and Cheshire Lines who have continued to turn up regularly despite facing heavy defeats. They are full of spirit and obviously enjoy their matches and this is just as important as winning.

The title is firmly locked in Old Swan's hands and they well deserve it. They have been consistent all season and their Nos. 1, 2 and 3 can be relied on to give them a good start in any match. They should do well in the 4th division.

Police 'E' won the Stamp Cup, deservedly so, having disposed of all the major rivals in the early rounds. Unfortunately, due to a mistake on somebody's part, they could not be presented with the cup as no-one had thought to take it along. I am sure that this would not have been allowed to happen in the premier cup competition. Let's hope it is looked into and an apology forthcoming to the Police team.

The runner-up spot will probably go to either Police or Stanley House and they will be closely followed by Trinity 'B' who changed their team during the season and with Randalls, Lawson and Downing as their main three have done extremely well after a slow start. My own team, W'tree Lab. 'E' started off well but lost pace and 6-4 has become the story of our season as we always seem to lose by this score.

Old Swan were recently held to a draw by Maghull 'A', a very good result for them and one which must have shaken Old Swan. Six sets went to 3 and Kinnear (Old Swan) received his first double defeat of the season, losing to Geoff Murgatroyd and that wily old campaigner Tim Kelly, who got a very creditable double. Fortunately for Old Swan their other two regulars at No. 1 and 3, France and Linforth, came along with their regular quota of two sets each. Murgatroyd just

failed to record a very notable double only losing 20-22 to Steve France in the third.

Vagabonds appear to be trying to outdo Rafter's for hospitality. Have been there twice lately and each time received tasty sandwiches served in the comfortable bar—even Rafter's can't compete with bar facilities. I'm now looking forward to the time when they provide the beer as well!

Several players from this division have entered the Restricted Singles and it will be interesting to see how they fare against the 3rd and 4th division players. I am certain that the top six teams in this division could more than hold their own in Division 4 and feel sure that Old Swan in particular could well be bidding for the third division next season.

No mention has yet been made of the Micklesfield Medals competition but if it does take place we could be in with a good chance of winning it.

The probable expulsion of S. Kath's and the failure of Tony Arthur to send in any notes has meant that I have had to take over these notes myself and as it is now too late in the season for anyone else to take over you will all have to make do with my efforts in the next issue as well. If it's any consolation to you my notes are always the longest, even if not the best, as I know just how much space is going to be available. I'd be a poor editor if I censored my own notes anyway.

Women's Division

By Joyce Randall

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Crawfords	16	15	0	1	137
Cadwa	15	12	2	1	119
Colonsay	16	8	8	0	74
Crawfords 'A'	14	5	9	0	69
Police	15	2	13	0	26
Knotty Ash	10	0	10	0	5

On March 10th I attended the *only* semi-final of the Cup at Crawfords. It was Cadwa v. Colonsay. It proved to be a very good match indeed. Cadwa were the victors, 7 sets to 3, two of the events could have gone to Colonsay. There were a few big scores, Carol Flood lost to Sue Manning, 11-21, 28-26, 16-21. Di Williams had a struggle with Kath

Pemberton, it went to three and over the last eight points Di completely changed her tactics to win 23-21 in the third. She didn't have the same insight while playing Val Lee who blasted her way home 21-23, 21-17, who in turn had to struggle against Sue Manning, Val won 23-21 in the third. Kathleen Baxendale played well, she didn't seem to have the answer to Kath Pemberton or Pauline Lawrenson, didn't seem to find her form. Brenda Williams had a good night, she didn't win a singles but played some good crisp table tennis, she partnered Di Williams as the winning pair against Pauline and Carol. Well done, girls! Hope you turned up at the Final, you can learn such a lot by watching.

We are nearly at the end of yet another season, wonder what the next one holds for us? The Ladies' division certainly needs a shot in the arm. In the OLD DAYS—before my time—we used to play against teams in the Wirral when few folks had cars. Wonder if there are any Ladies teams in St. Helens? It's just a thought.

I would like to send our congratulations to Muriel and Phil Cox (Crawfords) on the addition to their family, a little girl.

MICKLESFIELD MEDALS

COMPETITION

The Micklesfield Medals Competition will be held at Crawfords on Friday, 24th April, and will be played between 4A, 4B, 5 and the Ladies Division. At the time of writing this it is not known if this will also include Divisions 3A and 3B.

Divisional writers for the "Digest" notes will act as non-playing captains and will select the teams.

Teams will consist of 3 players, one over 40, one aged between 20 and 40, and one under 20 on date of tournament. No more than one player from any one club may play in any one team, and players selected must have played at least 50% of their matches this season in the division for which they are selected.

For those of you not fortunate enough to be chosen I can assure you of a most interesting evening's table tennis and amusement, if you are free on this particular evening—you will be very welcome.

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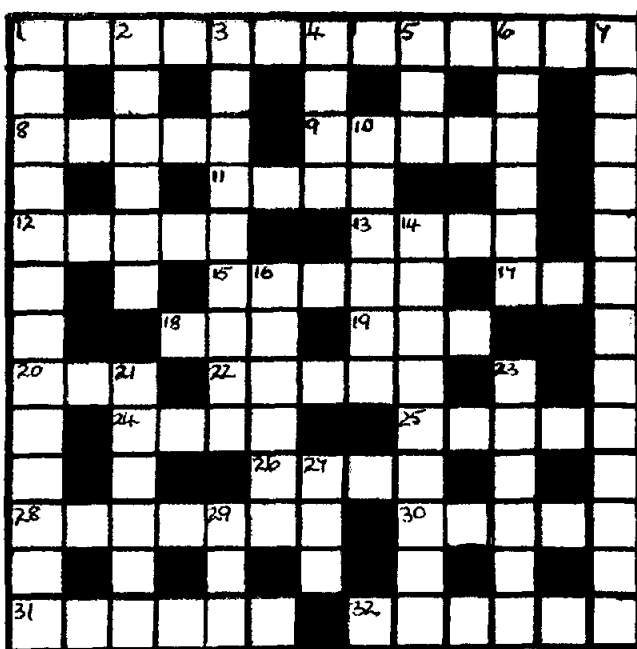
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Table Tennis Crossword



Clues Across

1. England won it in 1953 (10, 3)
8. Bend your knee to a great champion (5)
9. They're not nature's private property (5)
11. Nippy players (4)
12. What an alcoholic does in defeat (5)
13. When Sparta 'A' will get promotion (4)
15. How you get rid of water on a table tennis bat (3, 2)
17. Veteran's joints could do with a spot (3)
18. A MUST to beat Tony Clayton (1, 1, 1)
19. Players in long trousers (3)
20. German girl player (3)
22. Atmosphere in St. Edward's (5)
24. These come in the middle at most clubs (4)
25. I'm sure top players have this inbuilt (5)
26. Lazy star (4)
28. Possibly 3 clubs in one (7)
30. He doesn't play a part in table tennis (5)

31. The Scotsman did it after losing (6)
32. You get this torn off if you lose a set for Y.M. (1, 5)

Clues Down

1. Hungry chop merchant (8, 5)!
2. Eddie Clein's mood (6)
3. YMCA, Eng. Elec. and W'tree Labour (3, 3, 3)
4. Pool your resources for this shot (4)
5. Where I generally hit the ball (3)
6. Crawford's in a small way (6)
7. What Japanese clerks use (9, 4)
10. Mabel Francis' birthplace, presumably (6)
14. What other players believe in (5, 4)
16. A player monkeys around (4, 2)
21. Peter D'Arcy's resolution every season (6)
23. He digests everything (6)
27. What you'd do if you were playing for England in a white shirt (3)
29. Reaction shown by victim of an edge ball (3)

LINCOLNSHIRE HANDICAP DRAW

May I take this opportunity of thanking all Club secretaries and League members for their support and co-operation in helping to make the above financial success. The League gained just over £40 as a result of your efforts.

If each member of the League bought or sold one book each, we could make over £50 for League funds. To me this does not seem very much to ask. We hope for an even better result next year.

I. STURGEON.

STOP PRESS

Saturday, 28th March: 'Netcord' notes just arrived. Having heard of our bid to get the magazine out on time John Molyneux became fired with enthusiasm and decided to get his notes in first. Unfortunately he

had overlooked the fact that we were still waiting for his notes for THIS issue! Hard lines, John. Better luck next time. Now YOU know why the magazine is always late.