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**TABLE
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Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE DIGEST TENNIS

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Vol. 20

MAY, 1970

No. 5

Editorial

Another season over, and if the proposed Rule Amendments are carried at the A.G.M. this will have been our final season as a 5-a-side League. Support seems very strong at this stage and the prospects of this going through are very good. We need a change and the old arguments against this are now beginning to wear thin. It will definitely mean an unsettled start for everyone but like any re-organisation everyone will quickly become accustomed to it. Some clubs are obviously going to have to make slight adjustments for the playing of doubles but this should not raise many problems. Players will also have to make allowances for this during the first season and adapt themselves to playing doubles under the conditions available.

A great many changes are proposed this year, some good, some bad, some sound ridiculous, depending on your point of view. But if you have any opinions to voice make sure you get to the A.G.M. and air them. Anyone can get up and speak on items on the Agenda and yours could be the opinion which could mean success or failure for a proposition. So, if you want to have a say in the shaping of the League, even though you haven't an individual vote, come along to the L'pool Y.M. on the 28th May.

One of the things which has come to my notice during my first season of keeping the League records is the number of clubs who take advantage of the rules, usually bending them slightly in the process. These cases are often difficult to prove and require a close study. I will have more time for this next season as I will not be editing the magazine. Most clubs think no-one notices who is playing in any particular team and so assume that they have got away with it. This is not so. Some clubs appear to think they can place a good player, who is not always regularly available, as a reserve in a low team and then use him as a utility player in any team when he is available. This is an abuse of the rules which cannot be allowed to continue. The only exception to this, in my opinion, is where the players movements are restricted to the division in which he is ranked.

As this is my last edition as editor I will take this opportunity of thanking all those who have contributed to the magazine in any way. I would particularly like to thank both Eddie Cameron and Jack Lambert. Their notes always arrive promptly and Jack usually succeeds in just beating Eddie. Besides being a divisional writer Eddie has also contributed several successful ideas, such as "New Year Resolutions." He also holds the unique record of having contributed to every issue of the "Digest" since its conception.

Finally, I have made an exception and published in this issue a letter, a copy of which had sent to the Fixture and Organising Secretaries. This is not acceptable to any editor as letters for the magazine should remain as such, and not be distributed to Officers of the League

Lancashire & Cheshire League

By Alec Davidson

Final league tables just published show that overall, with one exception, the Liverpool league has had quite a successful season. Since September we have played a total of 44 matches, winning 32, drawing 4, a highly creditable performance.

The exception has been the Ladies 1st team, not from the playing point of view, but from the fact that they have had more than their fair share of postponed matches and upsets. I must commiserate with Ted Rum-jahn, who has kindly looked after the team of Mabel Francis, Joyce Randall and Janet Rumjahn and hope that it will not happen next season. In their last two matches, the Ladies were defeated 10-0 by Manchester and then awarded the match against Stockport, due to the non-arrival of the visiting team. They finished 4th in a league of seven teams, having Played 6, Won 3 and Lost 3.

The Ladies 'A' team have finished undefeated champions of Division 2 (8 teams) with a match record of Played 7, Won 7 and a sets total of 59-11. For the last two fixtures Val Lee came into the team for Jean Reynolds whose husband was unfortunately in hospital (we hope Harry is out and about again, Jean) and the matches were won 7-3 and 9-1 against Southport and Manchester Banks. Congratulations, Girls and I know all who participated during the season will be delighted. The players were Margaret Collins, Jean Reynolds, Di Williams, Val Lee and Jean Mackenzie.

The Men's 1st team had a rather mixed season, an injury to Tony Clayton contributing to an anticlimax when better things had been secretly hoped for by both Vic Chesham and myself. We were defeated 8-2 by Manchester (Trevor Owens standing in for Gordon Birch), then finished with a victory over Widnes 8-2 and were awarded the match against Chester. In the Widnes match Roy Jones came out of semi-retirement to form the team with Pete D'Arcy and Peter Turtle.

John Dancaster's Men's 'A' team made their presence felt in Division 2 by finishing joint

top, but lost the **title to Bolton 'A'** by two sets. An unexpected defeat v. Burnley 'A' meant that we had to convincingly defeat Bolton 'A' to win the league, a result of 6-4 in our favour was highly creditable but just not good enough. The title was then decided at Blackpool where anything short of a 6-4 win for Bolton would have made us champions, Bolton duly won 8-2. Players for the team were Ted Mandaluff (now being billed as Ted Wonderluff), Trevor Owens, Roy Jones and George Smith.

Our Youth team finished off the season by defeating St. Helens 10-0, Nelson 8-2 and being awarded the match against Sale. This gave us a runners-up position having played 9 won 8, lost 1. I am sure non-playing captain Brian Leeson must be well satisfied. The team of Dave Roberts, John Barton and Ron Burke played all season except for the last match when Dave Crispin stood in for Roberts.

At the commencement of the season I concealed the thought that our junior team were in for a rough passage in their division but they have really proved me wrong. We finished 3rd in Division 2 last year and were only promoted due to a vacancy occurring in Division 1, but our lads rose to the occasion and claimed the runners-up spot with some fighting table tennis. John Barton went through the season undefeated and was ably supported by ever-present Dave Crispin and also at other times by Keith Kinnear, Di Williams and John Marshall.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the non-playing captains and players for their able and unselfish support. Many people have gone out of their way to ensure that match arrangements have been both made and fulfilled. I would also like to thank the selection committee for their efforts, the numerous people who have transported the teams to away games and the various clubs for loaning clubrooms and providing refreshments.

Without these people the matches could not take place and I think the generosity of these people, too numerous to mention individually, is reflected in the high positions **which our teams have attained.**

Net Cords

By John Molyneux

There was almost a religious air about the Barton-Mandaluff semi-final at the 'Closed' —a sort of "Hims Ancient and Modern."

Talking of John Barton's hair, and let's face it, who isn't ? I thought he showed exceptional courage in the 'Closed,' he managed to completely ignore being nearly blinded by one of his loose hair clips ! He should try a hair-net—or a visit to the barbers.

Two mysteries from the 'Closed.' 1st mystery : How come a certain 1st Division player with an average of about 50% lose to a certain 3rd Division player average about 35% in the 1st Round ? Could it be that the winner played Pete D'Arcy in the next round, and the loser entered the Consolation ? 2nd mystery : What did happen to that handkerchief in the Ladies' Final ? Let's face it the skirt was the smaller article.

You may remember Tony Cohen's exploits in the Hyde Cup Final. Well, in the replay he excelled himself by forcing the Expedite Rule to be used in both his sets. Thank gawd it wasn't a 3-a-side match !

People are making a bit of a noise in the lower divisions about people playing to win at all costs. Wait until some of them reach the 1st Division. Talk about Saints amongst the sinners !

Some good news from Ted Birch. Anybody looking for premises at, a low rent next season will find the Huyton Cricket Club will be pleased to help. Anyone interested please contact Ted at Beauclair, or write to the Cricket Club.

Ah well, another season over, new champions, new faces in the League next season I've no doubt, with a bit of luck at least one more character who will fill this column by himself.

Whisper it quietly, the Hyde Cup has now returned to 3B. Will Eddie Cameron be having a quiet chat with the Fixture Sec. with a view to getting his team into 3B ?

I hear that Linacre's last away match was against a Glasgow team on the eve of the soccer international. Did the Davidson Bros, play in kilts ? I know that one of them can play the bagpipes. Will we have to suffer Haggis for refreshments next season ? Rafters will never be able to match that!

Now as Ken Armson retires noisily into whatever limbo claims ex-editors of the "Digest" let us reflect upon what his guidance has brought us. Me ! ! See you both'next season.

39th Annual Closed Tournament

By Brian Leeson.

Brian Parkinson and Mabel Francis emerged as the two new champions of the Liverpool League as a result of the recent Closed Tournament. Parkinson also took the Men's Doubles prize partnered by George Smith.

The Championships were again held at New Heys Comprehensive School and with eleven tables to use, many interesting games were contested each evening. More entries were received this year than for many years and in fact the Restricted Singles attracted almost 90, compared with just over 60 last year.

In the Men's Singles the progress of John McNee was watched with great interest. His win over Eddie Moran, followed by an extremely close 3 setter against Trevor Owens (John lost 21-19 in the 3rd) must indicate a very promising future. He also gave John Barton a real fight in the Boys' Singles Final.

John Barton's future also could bring him further honours. He did not lose a game until the semi-final against the experienced Ted Mandaluff. John's 2-straight victims included Peter Turtle, Eric Youd and then George Smith. Even the semi-final produced two very close, even games, Mandaluff finally, and thankfully I suspect, clinching his place in the Final.

Ted's path to the last round meant defeats for Ted Jan, Ray Johnson, R. Brancle, K. Fitzsimmons and P. Blake before his semi-final clash with Barton. The Final itself against Parkinson was quite entertaining, although the 3rd game was not close enough to excite the spectators. Brian Parkinson's list of defeated opponents would suggest that perhaps he had harder matches. He knocked out Ken Chambers (who then went on to win the Consolation event), B. Townsend, H. Nelson, A. Green and Arthur Taylor, before recording an extremely easy win in the semi-final over last year's winner, Peter D'Arcy. Unfortunately for D'Arcy he found Parkinson's service quite unreturnable and the result was never really in doubt.

In the Women's Singles Mabel Fran-

cis at last achieved what she has been so near for many seasons—the Women's title. She had to defeat Myra Lovelady, Jean Lancaster and Carol Flood to reach the Final, but her final victory over Val Lee was quite convincing. Val Lee had earlier knocked out A. Bernard, S. Manning, Jean Reynolds and then dark horse Gill Simm. Gill defeated the second seed, Joyce Randall, in two straight before losing to Val in the semi.

Ernie Owens won the Restricted Singles after some commendable victories in the earlier rounds. His list of defeated opponents includes D. Money, R. Ellis, J. Dancaster, W. B. Cunningham and the top-seeded R. Burke. He then completed his effort with a convincing win over Ray Lavin. Ray Lavin's list of victims includes G. Wright, A. Wood, A. Heague, D. Rigby and W. Jones before his meeting with Owens in the Final.

Before closing this account of the main events in this year's tournament, I must thank most sincerely all those who gave me assistance in the organisation of the event. I am not naming anyone here in case I forget someone, but the list of assistants is quite long and I am very grateful for all the help received.

Other Results : Men's Doubles—Smith & Parkinson beat Jones & Harris 21-19, 21-14; Women's Doubles—Pemberton & Lee beat Black & Taylor 21-11, 21-16; Mixed Doubles—D'Arcy & Rumjahn beat Youd & Wilson 21-17 21-14; Veteran's Singles—Mandaluff beat Harris 21-11, 21-15; Junior Boys' Singles - J. Barton beat J. McNee 21-13, 18-21, 21-9; Junior Girls Singles—S. Manning beat K. Baxendale 21-10, 21-16; Men's Consolation Event—Chambers beat Gourley 21-12, 21-14; Women's Consolation—Pemberton beat Mackenzie 17-21, 21-16, 22-20.

NOT WORTH MENTIONING !

By Philip Reid.

I think it is true to say that most league players are primarily interested in their own particular league matches to a large extent, the league in general to a lesser extent and the international field least of all. Even so, I imagine there are few players who do not scan the daily morning paper they happen to have for any snippets of news. How England are doing is sure to be of interest, who has done what in such and such a tournament and so on.

The really big international event as far as England—and many other countries—are concerned this season has been the European Championships, recently held in Moscow. With its strong entry it seemed likely to command considerable space in the National press as has happened with events of this kind in recent years.

Eagerly I called in for my morning paper, which I supplemented with those I thought most likely to give good coverage. In past years the Daily Telegraph, with that most knowledgeable of writers, Geoff Harrower usually covering table tennis has given excellent coverage with the Daily Mail also well up the list. I looked forward to collecting my daily papers and reading how England had done in particular and also who else had done well. Alas, my dreams were rudely shattered. Table tennis received hardly a mention and it would appear there was no reporter there at all apart from the editor of the "Table Tennis News," George Yates. The result was that news of England's fortunes were very limited indeed and most papers even neglected to say who Taylor and Hydes lost to. Some mentioned Neale's defeat (to Alser) and Barnes defeat was also briefly mentioned in one or two, but in the main there was next to nothing in.

Why ? Have the newspapers decided that suddenly table tennis isn't worth writing about after all ? Is it because it came at a rather unfortunate time in that it was right in the middle of the promotion and relegation battles, not to mention preparation for the Cup Final.

Obviously football is always going to receive much more publicity than other sport. It is our national game and is watched by millions who hungrily look for any football news, who might be asking for a transfer, who is injured, and so on. Fair enough.

Having accepted this—should table tennis be left out in the cold ? I see no reason why it should. If the Sports Editors thought they had a big readership amongst table tennis players then obviously they would be much more inclined to make sure it received a fairly good coverage. Clearly at the moment they think the table tennis population at large are not particularly interested in reading about international results in the paper. But are we ? Are YOU ? If you are—why not drop a line to your National paper expressing your disappointment ? This will carry much more weight than you think.

In England alone we have 200,000 league players. Surely that counts for something.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

By John McKim

The Annual General Meeting of the League will be held at the Liverpool YMCA on Thursday, 28th May, commencing at 7 p.m.

I have already received many rule alteration proposals, which, if passed, would drastically alter the League structure, and the method of play for next season. Items for consideration include, a change to teams of four players in the Mixed divisions, a change to teams of three players in the Women's division, a change from twin divisions back to straight divisions, and a reversion to the old system of scoring, i.e. 2 points for a win and 1 for a draw.

In addition to these there are many other suggestions put forward, and a lively meeting is a distinct possibility, it is in your interest to attend if at all possible, or if not, let your club secretary be sure before he or she attends, of the feelings of the members of your club.

One further note of importance, it was mentioned in the last issue that yellow balls had been used at Colonsay, in practice, it must be made perfectly clear to all members that yellow balls cannot be used at any level of competitive play, this includes League matches.

THE CLOSED CASH

By Don Cameron

Although the profit arising on the 'Closed' this year was only £2 as against last year's profit of £28, it was a very good performance in view of the big increase in costs. We increased our revenue by £11, entry fees being up by £9 and the draw brought in an extra £4 due to the perseverance of the young and persistent girls. On the expenditure side the big increase was in cartage which, went up from £9 to £35. This was due to the fact that the committee was unable to arrange collection of tables locally and it was agreed to borrow tables and have them carted here, the charge in fact is considered very reasonable and the whole arrangement for tables improved. Another improvement was in the quality of prizes which cost an additional £10 but this was considered well worth while.

Whilst we still get the support in entry fees like this then it is always worth while to run this event.

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
(74)	Entry Fees	83	(14)	Hire of School		14	
(9)	Door	7	(5)	Printing		9	
(6)	Draw	10	(27)	Prizes		37	
(8)	Catering	8	(1)	Insurance		1	
			(8)	Gratuities		5	
			(3)	Balls		2	
			(9)	Cartage, etc. !		35	
			(2)	Sundry		3	
			(28)	Profit		2	
(97)		£108	(97)			£108	

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I am writing in reply not only to Mr. Jessop's letter in the belated March issue but also to the comments of Mr. Lock, comments which the Editorial Board presumably considered before deciding to print them.

We admit that confusion was caused by the rapid *preseason* change of our 1st team match night from Wednesday to Thursday and then to Monday—a problem caused by last minute alterations to domestic arrangements by some of our players. In accordance with League rules, all club secretaries involved were promptly notified and W'tree Lab's, acknowledgement was postmarked 24/9/69. The disappointment at feeling cheated out of 1st place by opponents claiming walk-overs is appreciated by nobody more keenly than by St. Edward's, who have themselves suffered in this way.

Why then was the match not re-arranged? The letter, not apologising for the failure to turn up but asking for a re-arrangement, I passed to the players involved for their comments. They had decided to re-arrange the match when they became aware of W'tree Lab's, equally magnificent walk-over against Orrell and their generous offer to re-arrange that game at the end of the season provided their margin at the top of the division was adequate. Faced with such an excellent example of sports-manship, our team decided by 3 votes to 2 not to play the match after all.

St. Edwards is, as Mr. Jessop writes with obvious scorn, a little club. I used to enjoy playing in the regions against a little club named W'tree Labour before they "hit the gold trail." The obsession with winning medals and trying to get 14 teams into the 1st Division is not St. Edwards. We really do play to enjoy the game itself, and a second place would have been quite acceptable. We suffer the problems peculiar to little clubs—in particular the problems posed when a few players are not available and there is no large reservoir of discreetly ranked stars to draw upon. Another peculiarity of little clubs is, in my experience, an even level of sportsmanship and good manners over the years.

I agree that the rivalry between our two teams has been friendly and made the season more interesting. It is indeed a pity that circumstances have rather soured an otherwise friendly relationship but it is clear where the blame lies. My team was present on the appointed match night in, as Mr. Jessop so rightly says, our badly heated clubroom.

As regards Mr. Lock's divisional comments, I am surprised at his attitude. I thought writers were to report on matches and not to moralise and suggest that the interpretation of rules is up to the clubs. We would be interested to learn who, apart from members of W'tree Lab., made the remarks he quotes and with what justification. If such people exist we would be pleased to meet them. I might just as well suggest that it was non-availability of players that led to W'tree Labour to fail to turn up on the night and seek a rearrangement. However, based on my own experience of so many seasons of friendly rivalry. I don't really suggest any such thing.

Yours faithfully,

Phil Kelly, (Hon. Sec. St. Edwards).

Dear Sir,

There has, during the course of this season, been a great deal said about the advantages of changing from 5-a-side to 4-a-side. Personally I consider this could be a good thing simply because everybody would play more games.

BUT, has nobody stopped to think about all the players who would suddenly find themselves dropped down a couple of divisions, or in the cases of clubs with only one team, out of team play altogether. This would strike me as being particularly unfair in the case of the fifth player in a promoted team, who after working all season in an effort to move to a higher division, suddenly finds himself dropped one or more divisions.

I know there are bound to be some selfish people who will not care about what happens too anybody else, but

I would appeal to the, I hope, un-selfish majority to consider this carefully before voting on any proposals which may be put forward at the League A.G.M.

Before I close I should like to wish Keith Fitzsimmons all the best with his golf now that the table tennis season will no longer interfere with it.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. GREEN, (Linnets T.T.C.).

Dear Sir,

I think it was the late Jimmy Green who put me on your mailing list and someone continues to send me a copy of each issue. For this I tender my thanks and enclose a cheque to help League funds.

The subjects discussed in 1970 appear to be much the same as those written about in the early days of the "Digest," it's only the names which change. Teams arrive late, don't turn up, or are short. The service rule still causes controversy (I go back to the good old days of finger-spin!)—it probably always will.

In those early days teams consisted of 5 players, but each played each (no fiddles!) a single game.

But surely a 40% reduction from 5 to 3 is a bit drastic. What's the matter with 4? It's still a one car load, matches would finish at a reasonable time, always provided that the starting times didn't slip even further than they do now. But surely, in any system, outside of "each plays each" you need an order of merit?

Yours sincerely,
DON FOULIS.

Dear Sir,

From a team point of view I feel that 3-a-side is the ideal team set-up. No fiddling—strength plays strength, this applies at the top where all the best players MUST play each other and so improve our league standard, and let's face it, hasn't Tony Clayton with his dedication to the game shown our standard up.

However from a club point of view

3-a-side has many snags mainly financial ones plus use of rooms, utilisation of players, etc., so I must plump for the next best which is 4-a-side. I only wish that with it we could stop the degrading system of not so good players jumping about the order to avoid the good players, who in turn are jumping about to miss the bad players and catch the not so good!

I wonder how they went on in Bath this season with 3-a-side in Division 1 and 4-a-side the rest? This sounds good to me.

Don't forget Divs. 3 and 4, let's have fair do's, we are the only ones who have a pyramid system, so in future let us have Div. 3 playing Div. 3 and Div. 4 playing Div. 4 instead of half of Div. 3 playing half of Div. 4 as in the present Divs. 3A and 3B, and half of Div. 5 playing half of Div. 6 as we have now in Divs. 4A and 4B—a ridiculous situation.

Yours sincerely,
JACK LAMBERT
(Eng. Elec. T.T.C.).

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD.

In the rush of getting the magazine into print I omitted to mention who had submitted the Crossword in the March issue. It was a very good one and quite a few people have contacted me asking for the answers. We did intend to give a prize for this but were unable to publish it at the time we planned.

Our thanks for this absorbing puzzle, which I am sure must have taken him some time to arrange go to Dave Davies, Secretary of Knotty Ash.

Across. (1) Swaythling Cup; (8) Neale; (9) Oaths; (11) Japs; (12) Whine; (13) Soon; (15) Tap It; (17) Oil; (18) ESP; (19) Shy; (20) Her; (22) Eerie; (24) Eats; (25) Radar; (26) Idol; (28) Trinity.

Down. (1) Sandwich Eater; (2) Adagio; (3) The Jet Set; (4) Loop; (5) Net; (6) Casino; (7) Penholder Grip; (10) Assisi; (14) Other Laws; (16) Apes It; (21) Retire; (23) Editor; (27) Dye; (29) Ire.

Around the Divisions

DIVISION 1.

By John Wren

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
English Electric	26	26	0	0	224
L'pool YMCA	26	23	3	0	218
W'tree Labour	26	22	4	0	186
W'tree Lab. 'A'	26	9	12	5	128
L'pool YMCA 'A'	26	14	10	2	127
Mossley Hill	26	11	10	5	127
W'tree Lab. 'B'	26	11	12	3	126
Colonsay	26	10	12	4	121
Rafters	26	11	13	2	114
Beauclair	26	6	16	4	107
Eng. Elec. 'A'	26	8	14	4	107
Bath St.	26	6	16	4	102
Waterloo Park	26	6	17	3	102
Cadwa	26	1	25	0	31

Note. Bath St. and Waterloo Park play off to decide relegation.

conceded a walk-over to the Y.M. who they beat 6-4 in the first half of the season. Colonsay started well and finished well, with 9-1 wins over Rafters and the YMCA 'A' teams, but seem to have concentrated on the cup early in the second half of the season (for example losing to W'tree Lab. 'A' 8-2 and Eng. Elec. 'A' 6-4) reaching the semi-final before going down to the Y.M.

Rafters seem to go on for ever maintaining the same consistency of approach to the game and hospitality towards visitors that have made them one of the most popular sides in the division. By their previous seasons performances this year must have been somewhat disappointing to them, although they were never in danger of relegation. The same cannot be said of Beauclair, however, who have always looked to be in danger of relegation since Wally Allanson left for the North East. Luckily Bob Owen stepped in and he scored some good wins for us, and found time to get married too— making two of us who have gone this way this season, Harry Harrison being the second. Eng. Elec. 'A' too have never been far away from danger and will probably be in trouble next season as Linnets look far too strong to go straight back to the 2nd division.

Of the 3 clubs remaining only Cadwa's fate is settled. It was obvious from the start that they were going to be relegated and it must be several seasons since a team have managed only 31 points (10 from a walk-over against Y.M. 'A') in a season. Nevertheless one must admire their courage in turning out so regularly each week and wish them well in the 2nd division. The team that joins them will be the loser in the play-off between Bath St. and W'loo Park who have both finished on 102 points. May the better team win and may the loser be back in the 1st division soon. Have a pleasant summer.

Congratulations to Eng Electric for winning the "Double" and to the YMCA for running them so close in both competitions. A truly fine effort from both teams although mention must be made in particular of Ted Mandaluff with 94% for the Y.M., and Pete D'Arcy with 94 % for Eng. Elec. Mention should also be made of Gordon Birch and Tony Clayton who seem to have both won all their games this season. A truly remarkable performance for there to be two 100% records in any division let alone the 1st division. Congratulations !

Whilst handing the bouquets around I would like to nominate W'tree Labour as having the best season as far as club performances go. Having acquired a new table by their own efforts at the beginning of the season they have proceeded to use it to good effect, finishing 3rd, 4th and 7th in the division. The 1st team hasn't done as well as it has in the past, despite John Barton's 86% and Trevor Owen's 79% averages, but both the 'A' and 'B' teams have always been well up the division.

The same can be said for Mossley Hill, who might have finished higher if they had not

Division 2

Keith Fitzsimmons

What a pity it is to have to end the season on a sour note with the expulsion of the whole University club. Usually the University teams complete their fixtures before they break for holidays but this season they seem to have been under the impression they could complete them when

they came back from holidays after the official end of the season. This, of course, they cannot do and so walk-overs were given away all over the place including 5 from the team in this division. Having the club expelled in this way affected other teams as well, a case in point is at the top of this division

DIVISION 2.

By Keith Fitzsimmons

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Linnets	24	24	0	0	214
Trinity	24	19	3	2	155
Knotty Ash	24	18	4	2	150
Colonsay 'A'	24	14	6	4	145
Colonsay 'B'	24	12	9	3	126
Police	24	11	9	4	126
Linacre	24	12	11	1	124
Crawfords	24	9	10	5	109
Sparta	24	8	14	2	104
Trinity 'A'	24	4	17	3	89
W'loo Pk. 'A'	24	5	18	3	81
L'pool YM 'B'	24	3	20	1	76
Eng. Elec. 'B'	24	0	20	4	61

University's Record expunged.

when it cost Knotty Ash 20 pts., Colonsay 'A' 16 and Trinity only 11—this would have put Knotty Ash in 2nd place had University remained.

In the league Linnets are champions (59 pts.) clear of Trinity in second place with Knotty Ash a further 5 points behind 3rd. It has been a great struggle for second place all season and was only decided on the night before the season ended when Trinity beat Knotty Ash 6-4. All credit to Trinity for a very good win with good performances from Tom Killip in beating Barry Clarke and John Higham in beating Ian Burrows very easily in two straight. Next come the two Colonsay teams proving the club's general strength with the Police and Linacre right behind. At the bottom Eng. Elec. 'B', L'pool Y.M. 'B' and W'loo Pk. 'A' have all been

relegated but I fancy we will see at least one of these teams back very soon.

Now the season is over it is time for some facts and figures and one or two reflections. Top of the averages is John Baron of Linnets with 100% so congratulations to him on staying undefeated. Next is Phil Blake having lost 2 and Frank Thomas having lost 3, both Linnets. The team honours also go to Linnets, winning every league match and not dropping more than 3 sets in any one match. A fine all season performance by a very good team.

Trying to find the best individual performance (in my opinion) was very difficult as there were many good performances but I have picked out 3 to mention they are : D. Williams (Colonsay) beating Phil Blake, Dave Piper of the Y.M. 'B' beating Keith Jackson (Linnets) and Wally Sill of Eng. Elec. beating George Saunders of Sparta. For my own personal reflections they are : The team I most enjoyed playing against, W'loo Park 'A' ; the player I most enjoyed playing, Phil Blake ; the player I least liked playing, Don Gauld of the Police, mainly because he beat me.

Finally, my commiserations for the whole season go to T. Daly of Trinity 'A' who had the doubtful privilege of playing 30 sets and lost every one. Mind you, one consolation, you can only get better after this.

Division 3A

Eddie Cameron

L'pool Jewish, as expected, are the champions, as is common these days, they failed in their bid for the double. They themselves thwarted last year's champions and W'tree Labour, runners-up in that "other lot" had the consolation of the Hyde Cup victory. The Cup tussle was full of excitement, we had long evenings, slippery floors, falling bodies, expedite rule, cracking table tennis, boring table tennis but exciting table tennis, and perhaps a little disappointing no outright winning on sets. It was a shame for either team to lose but two games ultimately decided the issue. I think our representatives could have won the first time but W'tree Labour always seemed to me to be just that bit on top in the replay and eventually came out on top—congratulations to the W'tree Lab. team and to both teams for a close fighting finish.

The power of the Jewish this season has

been their all round strength and mixture of styles. Their squad comprises Dave Cohen as captain, I have heard him called the 'old fox' which is an indication of the thought he puts into his game, his forehand winner is his trump card. John Dancaster patiently and expertly makes the other fellow lose by dictating the pace and forcing the loose balls with his odd type of backhand ; Eddie Johnson has a good killer backhand to go with a very tight game. Dave Blake plods on and on and picks up points with his accuracy and consistency ; Tony Cohen defends and defends, but I have news for you, he has decided to attack next season and I believe he will. Dave Money is the dragon of the team—he positively hisses as he puts all his venom into that final smash, he attacks from the start and frightens many a defender to death with his tactics.

Sefton will, of course, be joining Jewish in division 2 and both look strong enough to stay

DIVISION 3A.

By Eddie Cameron

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
L'pool Jewish	24	23	0	1	202
Sefton	24	21	3	0	181
L'pool YM 'C'	24	17	5	2	153
Bath St. 'A'	24	15	6	3	138
Stanley House	24	13	9	2	136
Maghull	24	12	9	3	131
Police 'A'	24	9	14	1	110
Vagabonds	24	10	10	4	108
Crawfords 'B'	24	9	12	3	104
Linnets 'A'	24	4	17	3	87
W'tree Lab. 'D'	24	5	17	2	81
Cadwa 'A'	24	4	19	1	77
L'pool Jew 'B'	24	1	22	1	52

University 'A' Record expunged.

there without causing too much trouble to the front runners.

Who goes down with Jewish 'B'? I do not know, it is sad to relate that the University have so many matches to play and the few days of grace at the end of the season are insufficient for them to play their outstanding games. They know well

enough in advance their holiday dates and one would expect them to write around at the start of the season to rearrange every fixture clashing with closed term. This could all be fixed within a month of the season starting and yet here we are with many clubs not having been offered a revised date and the season almost over.

When is the truth not the truth? Last issue I told you of our wait at Bath St. Perfectly true, of course, but I did not tell you that the Bath St. players were scurrying around trying to find a key as they were also locked out. Result—some folk thought that the Bath St. team did not turn up until 8 p.m.—untrue, of course.

I have enjoyed these little chats with you this season, they are, of course, carried on in the clubrooms as I move around, but next season be a little more generous with me for I have not had a good playing season and next year, if I am involved I will not be mentioning any team that beats ours, or any player who beats me.

You will all be sorry to learn that Alan Hay of Maghull has had a heart attack. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Division 3B

Rob Lock

DIVISION 3B

By Rob Lock

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
St. Edwards	24	22	2	0	191
W'tree Lab. 'C'	24	21	2	1	167
Odyssey	24	15	5	4	146
Bath St. 'B'	24	12	6	6	132
Orrrell	24	10	9	5	127
Bootle Y.M.	24	9	10	5	122
Crawfords 'A'	24	12	9	3	118
Rafters 'A'	24	11	10	3	118
Hilltop	24	9	10	5	117
L'pool Jew. 'A'	24	7	13	4	97
Colonsay 'C'	24	4	18	2	88
Eng. Elec. 'C'	24	2	20	2	70
Beauclair 'A'	24	1	21	2	67

May I open these notes by quoting Eddie Cameron from the May 1969 issue "Let's talk about OUR cup!"

As you all know the first match was drawn, and as you will probably guess, so was the second. The final result was W'tree Labour 27 sets, L'pool Jewish 25 sets.

I have been asked by the W'tree team to thank all who took part in this match, for helping

to make it such an exciting, sporting and entertaining evening, particularly John Dancaster and Tony Cohen who travelled 8 miles out of their way at 1 a.m. to take a couple of W'tree lads home.

A late effort was made by Beauclair 'A' to avoid relegation, but that failed, and we now lose another club with a bar!

Bath St. finished top of the breakaway league, and it is interesting to note that there were only 15 points separating 6 clubs.

As I do not have all the score cards in my possession, I cannot pick out any of the outstanding players from this division. Some results I have noticed are typical "end of season" results, i.e. Rafters 'A' 7, W'tree Lab. 3; Odyssey 1, Rafters 9.

As expected St. Edwards won the title without being pressed, that was just a formality.

In reply to Eddie Cameron's "Grudge Match" I reckon the top three teams in 3B would murder the top three from 3A. How about a challenge, Eddie?

DIVISION 4A. By Brian Jennings

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Palatine	24	23	1	0	182
Rafters 'B'	24	17	4	3	181
Bohemians	24	16	3	5	163
W'loo Pk. 'B'	24	16	6	2	141
LYCA	24	11	7	6	124
Police 'C'	24	10	9	5	118
Knotty Ash 'B'	24	12	10	2	116
Eng. Elec. 'D'	24	7	14	3	101
Colonsay 'D'	24	6	17	1	96
Bath St. 'D'	24	6	14	4	93
Pirates	24	4	13	7	93
Rafters 'C'	24	6	18	0	88
Palatine 'A'	24	2	20	2	63

DIVISION 4B. By Jack Lambert

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Sparta 'A'	24	21	1	2	194
Bohemians 'A'	24	21	2	1	185
Police 'B'	24	19	3	2	174
Orrell 'A'	24	17	6	1	146
Bath St. 'C'	24	13	8	3	136
St. Edwards 'A'	24	12	9	3	134
Police 'D'	24	8	13	3	97
Knotty Ash 'A'	24	8	15	1	92
Coll. of Tech.	24	3	16	5	81
Eng. Elec. 'E'	24	5	17	2	81
Mossley Hill 'A'	24	6	16	2	81
Colonsay 'E'	24	4	18	2	80
Giro	24	4	17	3	78

At the time of writing these notes the final league placings are unknown but I presume that Palatine will get the necessary 22 points from their last three matches to pip Rafters. 'B' for the title. This has been an excellent season for them, having only lost one game to Knotty Ash, and that was when they were without their top three players. Nobody managed to spoil the 100 %'s of Barraclough and Rooney and we congratulate them on a fine season.

At the other end of the division Palatine's second team look sure to have pipped Rafters again and will find themselves in the 5th division next season. I can't say that they will be missed because along with Liverpool Pirates they have the worst record in the league for conceding sets. Last month they had their last chance of avoiding relegation when they met Rafters 'C', it was Palatine's home night and they faced the opposition with ONE player!

Looking at next season I expect to see LYCA, Bohemians and possibly Bath St. 'D' fighting it out for promotion, with Bohemians possibly coming out on top.

At the recent 'Closed' tournament 4A was very well represented and among those who met with success were Bill Jones, who reached the semi-final of the Restricted. The junior girls final was between Sue Manning and Kathleen Baxendale, both of Colonsay, and John Marshall reached the semi-final of the junior boys. Gill Simm of Bath St. reached the semi-final of the Women's Singles knocking out the No. 2 seed on the way.

The strong and experienced Sparta team held off all challenges to become worthy champions. Billy Holmes was the division's leading player with 45 wins (to date) only one in front of Kneale, but this was a real team effort with Leeming, Holmes H., cheery Demain (you are never too old) and reserve Lightburn, all pulling their weight.

The fight for second place between Bohemians and Police 'B' was a real highlight—Rycroft was Bohs. star man of the seven called on, followed by Grugal and Wildblood. For the Police only one game separated leading scorer Dyson from Jones G. and Christian with Rimmer and Lawson giving excellent support.

Facts and figures of the remaining clubs are as follows (plus or minus a few cards) : Police 'D' called on 12 players with Birch top scorer and Hopkinson the most regular team man. Bath St. 12 with Cunningham top scorer, Georgeson top team man. Knotty Ash 9 with Davies D. and Doyle joint top and McCracken. Mossley Hill 7 with Pratt and Thompson. Giro 9 with Wood and Ormston. Coll. of Tech. (next season L'pool Polytech.) 9 with Patel and Home. Eng. Elec. 11 with Lambert and Hands. Orrell 'A' 9 with Myra Lovelady and Stevenson. Colonsay 'E' 16 with Ellis top scorer, Brook and Brenda Williams. St. Edwards 'A' 8 with Coughlan and Hughes. University 11 with Crayston and Z. Z.

Despite their troubles internally and externally I hope University are still around next season—I think we have to try and understand other peoples troubles (including the Editor's). On behalf of our division and my club I thank Ken for his excellent efforts over the past years with the "Digest" despite his difficulties. Knotty Ash also

to thank all clubs who have helped them through their difficult period.

Our team of Billy Holmes, Ron Ellis and Alan Crayston won the Micklesfield Medals and guess who was the brilliant non-playing captain.

Nice to see the young ones still coming through the Colonsay machine —what a good draw they had against Sparta, but Alec Trevor of Mossley Hill keeps going strong. I personally hope that next season brings 4-a-side and more important for the lower teams, straight divisions.

wonder why ? Not a bad season for them just the same—4th in the division and Cup winners.

Following that Stamp Cup fiasco a little further I discovered that the real culprits were Sparta 'A', last season's winners. Efforts were made to get the Cup back from them but none were successful. The Cup was eventually handed over at the Closed Tournament and will now be presented at the A.G.M. A very unsatisfactory affair as far as Police are concerned and I hope it does not occur again. Clubs winning trophies have an obligation to return them in good time before the Finals take place

Division 5 Ken Armson

DIVISION 5.		By Ken Armson				
	P	W	L	D	Pts.	
Old Swan	20	17	0	3	158	
Stan. House 'A'	20	16	2	2	140	
Trinity 'B'	20	15	4	1	139	
Police 'E'	20	15	4	1	135	
W'tree Lab. 'E'	20	9	10	1	116	
Maghull 'A'	20	7	10	3	103	
Cadwa 'B'	20	7	9	4	102	
Vagabonds 'A'	20	7	11	2	82	
Linnets 'B'	20	4	16	0	56	
Cheshire Lines	20	3	16	1	47	
Maghull 'B'	20	1	19	0	24	

As was expected Old Swan have finished as worthy champions, altho they were never shown in the league tables as leaders. This has been a wonderful first season in the league for them and I am sure we will see them make further progress next season. They have plenty of untapped talent to draw on and we will be seeing another team in the league next season. The team of the second half of the season must be Trinity, from a poor start with an average team they suddenly broke into a gallop and swept all before them to finish in 3rd place. Their one worry was whether they would be promoted, and for the benefit of all who may be wondering about this the top four will be promoted and if any vacancies exist then more teams from this division will go up to fill them.

The gap between Old Swan and Stanley House was quite wide but had they not conceded 12 walk-overs this would have been a much closer finish. The Police were hampered by their usual problem of difficulty in turning out their best team regularly, although strangely enough their 'B' team in 4B does not suffer with this problem. I

Next season will probably bring its changes and it is not possible to forecast what the composition of this division will be. I would like to say that Maghull 'B' and Cheshire Lines will find the going easier but I am afraid that is unlikely to be the position. The problem of weak teams is one which cannot be solved and it is to their credit that they carry on. Mind you, Maghull 'B' made their mark, they were the only team to reach a semi-final without playing a match and then to concede a walkover at that stage. I would think that was one for the record books.

Linnets 'B' had a very average season but this could be put down to their breach of the rules and subsequent punishment from which they never really recovered. Cadwa 'B' with their mixture of young and older players did not do well in the league but did reach the Stamp Cup Final. They should do better next season. Vags 'A', Maghull 'A' and W'tree Lab. 'E' all had a good season without quite making it but they all had to be treated with respect by the top four. My team were in with a good chance but somehow we lost our way by losing matches which we were confident we would win so we had to be satisfied with 5th place, when in the early part of the season we looked good candidates for the top spot.

We were unsuccessful in our bid to win the Micklesfield Medals but our team did well enough. Our best player was Tom Lawson (Trinity) he played well and rarely made a mistake. We finished 3rd. Mind you there were only three teams as the Ladies had to withdraw.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

By Joyce Randall

	P	W	L	D	Pts.	
Crawfords	16	15	0	1	132	
Cadwa	16	11	3	2	117	
Colonsay	16	8	8	0	72	les-
Crawfords 'A'	16	4	11	1	67	tely
Police	16	0	16	0	12	we

had to try and find a replacement over 40, we only have two that I know of. Eddie said he would do his best, felt a bit put out when he asked me to take my kit just in case ! Think I nearly blew him off the phone. I feel the rules should be bent a little at say over 30 for the Ladies. Anyway, Di Williams and I waited for Mabel to arrive, guess what ? She didn't come. Where were you, Mabel ? We, of course, withdrew the team and left the field wide open for the men.

I would like to think that all the Ladies had

enjoyed the season, but I know this is not so. There is one bright side to it, there have never been so many young ladies playing. I refer to the school girls, hope they will forge ahead and make good use of all the splendid coaching they have had. I always say one has to learn how to lose, it's so easy to be gracious having won, but no matter how you feel inside, one must be just as gracious having lost, it's a good code.

This will be my last article as Ladies rep. We will be moving out of Liverpool to the Wirral. As always, time is my enemy. I will have so much to do and organise. I will certainly keep in touch with the league's activities through the medium of the "Digest."