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Table Tennis Digest

Volume 24

Number 2



Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Table Tennis Digest

All correspondence must be
addressed to the Editor
"Table Tennis Digest"
118 Shell Road, Liverpool L6 7UA

Published during the
months of November
January, February,
March and May.

— Editorial Board —

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Vol. 24

No. 2

Editorial

Oh dear! Only my second, and penultimate, issue and I have got to apologise again for the late arrival of the magazine. This is due to the postal strike and not to my two month annual holiday in the Bahamas. Seriously though, I would like to thank all the contributors who have gone out of their way to write and deliver their notes on time in difficult circumstances.

No doubt most of you will have heard that Colonsay are to loose their clubhouse. This will mean that about 40 players, including two teams of women, will be without somewhere to play next season. Their hall was certainly one of the coldest places to play in Liverpool but their conditions were amongst the best, and good conditions are few and far between in Liverpool.

In fact conditions suitable for table tennis are becoming increasingly scarce, which must cause some of the clubs in the League some concern. These are the clubs that exist purely for table tennis and do not have any larger body to fall back on in time of trouble, as for example do teams run by sports and social clubs and individual firms. In several cases these clubs are in premises which may well be demolished in the not too distant future, to make way for redevelopment projects. Alternatively they may themselves find their premises unsuitable to cater for the growing numbers of people who will be trying to play table tennis.

And, believe it or not, it is likely that more and more people will be taking up the sport. National trends show that the amount of time available for leisure is increasing and will increase still further in the future. Table tennis is a cheap sport to take up and there are no social barriers as there are with other sports. More important, youngsters are now being taught to play, and play well, at school so it is extremely likely that they will want to join a club when, or even before, they leave school. Hence there is going to be increasing pressure on the existing facilities, and a demand for the provision of new facilities.

The problem is that any new conditions provided may not in fact be suitable. Nowadays, to be justified on economic grounds, buildings have to be used as intensively as possible. Hence school halls are being used by adults at night and new community developments try to cater for as many sports as possible under one roof. This will obviously create problems for a major necessity for our sport is a fairly large area which can be isolated, but is not too large so that all atmosphere is lost.

Even where the room is the right size problems can occur. At the University, for example, their room cannot be isolated from the main heating system, with the result that it gets like a Turkish Bath at times. Similarly at Bedford House I have been waiting to play only to find that the cleaners are polishing the floor! All clubs have some fault or other and obviously it will be impossible to eradicate all of these in the future. But there is no reason why new conditions that are being built should be as bad as the existing ones. It is up to the E.T.T.A. on a national scale, and local committees at a lower level, to make sure that our needs are made known to architects and planners. In these days of increasing participation we will only have ourselves to blame if we get bad playing conditions in the future.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

To date, our City teams have played a total of 36 league matches, winning 25 and drawing 1.

The Ladies 1st team has won 2, played a creditable draw with Stockport, and lost to Manchester. Our team of Mabel Francis, Jean Reynolds and Val Lee still has to play Crewe and a re-arranged fixture with the strong Blackpool League.

In winning 5 matches in succession, John O'Sullivan's Ladies' 'A' team lead div. 2 with 10 pts. Composed entirely of Junior Players, the next match against Southport is all important, because, as far as can be ascertained, Southport are also un-defeated. The selected team is Suzanne Manning, Brenda Williams and Barbara Kirkman.

The Men's 1st team of Tony Clayton, Pete D'Arcy and lately Wally Allanson instead of Gordon Birch, who has opted out because of business commitments, has played 5 and won 2. I am sure that their final position will be much higher than it is now.

Our Men's 'A' team has only lost 1 match out of 5 played to date. This was to the Blackpool League by a narrow margin of 6 sets to 4, after a hectic journey there on a wet and windy Saturday evening. At the last moment, Don Cameron kindly consented to transport the team, I know that Don would be disappointed to see the side loose, on each occasion on which he has taken a team, they have won.

The Youth team of Dave Roberts, Chris Brewer and Ron Burke has also been enjoying a successful season. Out of 9 matches played, they have won 7 and lost 2.

On the two occasions on which he has been called in as reserve, John Marshall has performed with great distinction.

Our youngest team in the Junior South Division has played 7, won 4, lost 3.

Latterly, Eric Hardman and Philip Topping have been selected to join John Marshall in the team to the exclusion of the Junior girls who have been playing in the Ladies' 'A' Team. This season, John is filling the No. 1 spot with great authority. I feel that his experience in our own First Division with his club (Rafters), has helped him considerably.

ALEC DAVIDSON.

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NET CORDS

I see that St. Edwards 'A' had to concede a walk-over through turning up on the wrong match night. May I on behalf of my colleagues at Wavertree Labour Club extend our sincere condolences, and does anybody know how to stop Ken Armson laughing?

* * *

Talking of Mr. Armson, I would like to point out to our esteemed editor that he shall be hearing from my solicitors in the near future concerning the libel contained in the last issue. If there were two Armsons in this world there would be a queue waiting to press the button to release the rockets.

* * *

I'm not saying that one club in Bootle, which shall remain anonymous, is cold but when they make you sign an insurance policy against frostbite in the entrance . . . ! Still it's a pity to see that Colonsay will soon have to vacate their premises, everywhere else seemed so warm after playing there.

* * *

Nice to see that the Editor and myself are in full agreement on two subjects. I prefer NetCORDS, too, and it is time that somebody proposed abolishing that archaic rule about track suits. In some places you need a fur-lined track suit plus fur gloves to maintain some semblance of warmth.

* * *

Good to see Trinity getting some excellent results in the 1st Division. Mind you, I still think that their three reserves Big Daddy, The Kid and Spooky have something to do with it.

* * *

Tales have been reaching me concerning a small feud building up between two of our more northern outpost in the league. It appears that it started over a silly argument over the order of play, and reached its low point when one club needed structural repairs making, and postponed their home match with their rivals. The visiting captain went to the home club on the night in question to check whether the work was actually being done. Have you ever heard such nonsense in your life?

* * *

Well it had to happen, "Mandy" sorted out Tony Clayton. Well, Tony that's what you get for trying to "loop the loop" on Mandy's "wall of death".

* * *

There are so many out of town players in the league these days that I heard a suggestion that we re-name it the "Liverpool & Lancs. Table Tennis League".

* * *

One would have thought that when we manage to rid ourselves of a garrulous Editor that would be the end of it. Not our last one he makes a complete take-over bid by attempting to write all the Divisional notes. Is there to be no peace?

* * *

Nice to see that there are more young teams around in the league these days. Possibly the message that clubs have to look to beginners for their future is beginning to spread a bit. Coaching young players needs patience, but the results are often great compensation for all the hard work.

JOHN MOLYNEUX.

PING PONG OR TABLE TENNIS?

The origins of table tennis seem to be shrouded in mystery but have been attributed to either India or England in about the 1880's. At this time the balls were made of cork and the game was very much an adaption of real or royal (indoor) tennis.

Various firms introduced their own equipment and rules at the time and so the game came to be called by a series of trade marks such as "Gossima" and "Ping-Pong". About 1900 it became a craze in many parts of the world and in Great Britain a Ping-Pong Association was formed, much to the amusement of Music-hall comedians. As a result of this adverse publicity and difficulties over the use of trade marks the sport stagnated everywhere, except Hungary, until the 1920's. In 1926 the term table tennis was adopted as the official name for the sport and the International Table Tennis Federation was formed. The following year the English Table Tennis Association came into being, hence nowadays we all play table tennis and not ping pong (in theory at least).

Whilst on the subject of the early history of the sport it is interesting to note that before the advent of sponge, which incidentally was banned at first by the I.T.T.F., the dominant country was Hungary. The first English open championships took place in 1921/2 and for the first three years the men's singles title was won by English players. After this, up to 1957, it was won ten times by Hungary four times by England, three times by India, Poland and Czechoslovakia, twice by France and once each by Japan and the U.S.A. The four English victories were by F. J. Perry in 1928/9, Richard Bergmann in 1947/8 and Johnny Leach, M.B.E. in 1948/9 and 1950/1. Perhaps it is about time we won it again!

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NATIONAL NEWS

Those of you that have been deprived of your Table Tennis News through the post office dispute (its not only the Digest that is late!) may be interested in the following snippets of information, which I have gleaned from various sources:—

At the Scottish Open, which he won, Dennis Neale became so attached to a particular ball that he carried it around with him and used it in all his matches. This is a symptom of the dissatisfaction that our top players are expressing over a certain make of E.T.T.A. approved ball. Rumbles of discontent have also been heard in the First Division.

John McNee has been playing for Scotland's Junior team. Congratulations!

English Electric have reached the last sixteen of the English Club Championships with a fine 5-4 win over Waterpark, the Manchester champions. At 4 games all Wally Allanson went on against Hymanson. The expedite Rule was introduced at 16-12 in the third, which Wally went on to win 21-16. Full results were:—L. A. Clayton lost to Ingber and beat Schofield and Hymanson; P. E. D'Arcy lost to Ingber and Schofield and beat Hymanson; W. Allanson lost to Ingber and beat Schofield and Hymanson.

Tony Clayton has been having a tremendous season. After languishing in the relative obscurity of the no. 10 spot his promotion to no. 5 has been followed by a series of good tournament results, both at home and abroad. So far he has won Meadowbank (Edinburgh), and the Cumberland Open and has been the losing finalist in the English Closed, Scottish Open, Merseyside Open, Birmingham Open and the Midland Counties. He is also to coach in Australia this Summer.

Stop Press! As I was calmly drinking my lunch thinking that at last I'd got the Digest ready I was rudely disturbed by one breathless Tony Clayton (due no doubt to his week at the English Training Camp) who announced that he was flying to Tokyo to represent England in the World Championships. It appears that Messrs. Neal and Barnes have had a disagreement with the E.T.T.A. and will not be going to the Championships, hence the call to our intrepid hero. He will also be playing in the Commonwealth Championships in Singapore on the way out to Japan so good luck to him!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

44 Wavertree Green,
Liverpool 15.

7th March, 1971.

Dear Sir,

Two things have impressed me this season. First of all the success of the four-a-side as against the five-a-side, when with Victoria Park we were lone crusaders for such a venture, and I can still hear the opposition chants about the lack of doubles space. What a pity it has come so late, I think the doubles game is great fun and an added attraction to the evening. I will need to postpone my retirement at least another ten years to make the most of it. Secondly I have been greatly impressed by the younger players in the league, maybe it is because I have tumbled down further but it is certainly good for Liverpool table tennis to have such enthusiastic young clubs as Woolton, Norris Green, and Old Swan. The club leaders have done a good job here and the lads are producing a style of table tennis which is adventurous, bold and not so technically deficient as one may have expected from newcomers. With such clubs and the younger talent being helped forward by the established clubs such as English Electric, Liverpool Table Tennis will be in good hands in the future.

EDDIE CAMERON,

Hon. Fixture Secretary.

Dear Sir,

Now we have completed our fixtures, I should like to thank those teams who helped us out of the great difficulties caused by our having to vacate the studio in the Sports Centre by 10 p.m. It is a great pity that the University can not find a room for the club thus allowing us to finish after 10 games have been played, so that we do not lose the match by conceding sets, as happened four times this season, all to top teams.

If we are not promoted we can only blame ourselves, the University management and certain of the better teams in the division who arrived late, after having been asked and agreed to come early. In one case the comment was made that "We hear you concede sets after 10 p.m.". Some of our players found evenings such as this intolerable and have left as a result.

We are also sorry for the inconvenience caused to other clubs in the League by the withdrawal of our other two teams, but re-arranging fixtures has proved more difficult than in other years. We hope however to be able to enter these teams again next year as we have many people here who are keen to play.

Yours Faithfully,

ALAN CRAYSTON,

University Table Tennis Club.

50 Rockbank Road,
Liverpool, L13 7BH.

Dear Sir,

I write in praise of the most sporting and considerate attitude adopted by Ken Armson in granting a late postponement of a fixture between St. Edward's second team and Wavertree Labour 'E' team when we found that, due to an acute shortage of players for two fixtures on one evening, we would have been unable to field two full teams.

In view of the unfortunate incident which occurred last year between our clubs, it is with pleasure that I convey the appreciation of our members for Ken's generosity.

Yours sincerely,

ALAN NOLAN.

RUMOUR HAS IT THAT . . .

- Bill Harris has been in hospital for an abdominal operation. Get well soon Bill.
- The E.T.T.A. may be getting a reduced government grant next year. Those who connect this with the non-appearance of the English Men's team at an official E.T.T.A. reception for the Minister of Sport in London may not be a million miles from the truth.
- Next season should be interesting with Wavertree Labour having four teams in the 1st Division. With their strength spread amongst these they should have no difficulty in being a permanent fixture. In two years time they could have five teams in, then we will have to rename the league Wavertree and District Table Tennis League.
- Wavertree Labour 'C' beat Colonsay 'A' 6-4 in the final of the Rumjahn Cup. Dave Williams and Eddie Birch went to Expedite.
- Messrs. Clayton, Brewer, Wren, King, Newton and Noel Fagin of Colonsay managed to loose the final of the U.A.U. Team Championship to Southampton, having beaten Birmingham 8-7 in the semi-final. A lunch time visit to a Chinese Restaurant is being blamed in official circles.
- Susanne Manning and Brenda Williams won the Girl's Doubles in the Lancashire Junior Tournament. Congratulations.
- I forgot to mention in the last issue that Ted Gilmour has got married. Congratulations.
- Phil Reid is not only Chairman of Leicestershire County Association but also Hon. Secretary, National Councillor, Press Officer, Coaching Secretary and Umpire Committee Secretary. And he still gets time to write for the Digest!
- Wavertree Labour 'D' beat English Electric 'B' in the final of the Hyde Cup.
- Don Davies and Jack McCaig did their practical umpires test at the Lancashire Junior Tournament, having successfully completed their written test papers. Ken Armson has also passed the written paper but has yet to take his practical.
- Chris Brewer is not ranked in Rutland but in Leicestershire. Rumours that the entire Wavertree Labour Club is moving to Leicestershire were denied by King Ken last night.
- The Editor was pleased that there was a postal strike because it meant that nobody else got any letters either.
- Old Swan beat St. Edward's 'A' 9-1 in the final of the Forrest Cup. Sporting of St. Edward's to give Old Swan a helping hand by only turning up with three players!
- Susanne Manning won the Under 17 event in the Girl's Singles at the Lancashire Junior Tournament. Congratulations.
- Unkind members of the First Division are spreading rumours that the Wavertree Labour 'A' players are "only here for the beer". This is obviously untrue for the simple reason that they are rarely "here" at all.
- Jack McCaig and Brian Leeson have recently umpired a Junior International between England and Wales.
- Dennis Neale won £100 and Tony Clayton £25 at the Scottish Open. I always thought Scotsmen were supposed to be mean!
- John Molyneux has lost so much weight that he now looks like the Editor before he began to put on weight!
- Wavertree Labour 'C' are now displaying the Rumjahn Cup at their home matches. To intimidate people and stop them asking for tea perhaps?
- There will be another edition of the Digest!

Around the Divisions

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Wav. Labour	19	17	2	—	149
English Electric ...	17	15	1	1	146
Liverpool Y.M.C.A. .	17	14	1	2	128
Linnets	17	14	3	—	121
Wav. Lab. 'B'	20	9	6	5	103
Rafters	20	5	12	3	76
Liv. Y.M.C.A. 'A' .	17	6	9	2	74
English Electric 'A' .	16	6	8	2	73
Wav. Lab. 'A'	16	6	6	4	73
Mossley Hill	19	4	12	3	71
Trinity	18	5	11	2	70
Beauclair	18	4	12	2	67
Colonsay	16	3	10	3	56
Waterloo Park	16	—	16	—	23

"What!" Another Digest and so soon, will wonders ever cease? Ask Tony Clayton the England ranked No. 5, he will be looking for one next time he plays Ted Mandaluff. For those who don't already know Tony lost to Ted 15-21 twice.

At the top of the league English Electric now seem certain to take the title for the second successive season. The battle for second place rests between Wav. Labour and Y.M.C.A. who still have to play each other as well as Eng. Electric. But for conceding a 10-0 walkover Linnets would also have been concerned and will have to settle for fourth place.

Wav. Lab. 'B' 9 Wav. Lab. 'A' 1: surely 'A' comes before 'B'? This keeps Labour 'B' ahead of the 'A' team. In the middle of the table we have Eng. Electric 'A' and Y.M.C.A. 'A' who have both had some good and bad results this season.

What about the battle at the bottom, no less than six teams are involved in relegation. Waterloo Park are having a very bad season and have yet to win a match they are already assured of relegation. Colonsay have been in the bottom two all season but with such a strong squad of players will surely climb well clear. Beauclair are still finding it hard to get sets but with an easy finish should just about escape the drop.

Three teams left, Rafters, Mossley Hill and Trinity. Yes, I did say Rafters, who are having their worst season ever and with all the top four teams still to play they will be lucky to escape. Mossley Hill seem capable of taking sets off the better teams and this might keep them going. Although Trinity have had a few gifts this season they have proved themselves a very useful side and could still stay up.

For those teams involved in the relegation struggle I have compiled what I feel will be the final placings.

10th Beauclair	100 to 105 Sets.
11th Mossley Hill	90 to 95 Sets.
12th Trinity	88 to 92 Sets.
13th Rafters	88 to 92 Sets.
14th Waterloo Park	40 to 45 Sets.

The best individual performance of the season must go to G. Lockett of Trinity, beating such players as J. McNee and E. Gilmour (Wav. Lab.), K. Jackson and P. Blake (Linnets), R. Rumjahn (Rafters) and E. Clein (Eng. Elec. twice). These are but a few.

I hear Gordon Birch nearly pulled a 0-14 deficit in the third into victory against John Higham of Trinity. Hard luck Gordon.

In the lead at the moment in the averages we have Peter D'Arcy and Tony Clayton, having lost only one set each, followed by Gordon Birch who has lost twice.

A young man rapidly making a name for himself is John McNee (Wav. Lab.) surely one of the best prospects Liverpool has had for a long time. In successive weeks he has beaten three Liverpool City players, Trevor Owens, George Smith and Ted Mandaluff.

ROY SMITH.

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Bath St.	19	15	2	2	138
Wav. Lab. 'C'	17	15	1	1	133
Colonsay 'A'	20	14	5	1	119
Crawfords	18	11	3	4	104
Police	19	8	10	1	102
Colonsay 'B'	18	9	5	4	99
St. Edwards	19	8	9	2	97
Sparta	16	8	6	2	82
Liverpool Jewish ...	18	5	11	2	81
Sefton	18	5	10	3	73
Linacre	14	7	6	1	72
Trinity 'A'	18	5	12	1	70
Cadwa	17	2	15	—	53
Knotty Ash	16	—	16	—	15

The postal strike has been blamed for many things going wrong so I might as well have a go and blame it for these notes not being up to date. The reason of course is that no cards are being delivered, which makes it very difficult to write anything at all. Still I have collected a few cards from Ken Armson so we will try and manage a few words from these.

Trinity 'A' had a very good 7-3 win at Liverpool Jewish where the best performance came from Les Carmichael in beating John Dancaister 21-8 in the third and J. Charnock 21-16 to complete a very good double. In the same match Alan Chase of Trinity also won both singles, Alan has not played for some time and this season has been playing in the 4th division so these two wins over Charnock and Dave Cohen must have pleased him a great deal.

Cadwa and Linacre had a close match with Linacre just getting home 6-4. For Cadwa, Bill Carter won his two singles beating Jack Davidson 22-20, 22-20 and Frank Lacy 21-17, 21-17 and then teamed with Val Lee to win their doubles set two straight. For Linacre, A. Horwood won both his singles in the third game. I think he must be a slow starter for in both matches he lost the first game very easily 21-8 to Dave Piper and 21-9 to Ian Blore.

The Rumjahn Cup final will be between Wavertree Labour 'C' and Colonsay 'A'. In the semi-final Colonsay 'A' beat the Police 6-4 in a close match and Wavertree Labour beat Bath Street by the rather surprising score of 10-0. As I have not seen the card I do not know any score details but I do know that Bath

Street were at full strength and the Labour Club had Eddie Birch playing in only his second match for them. All the signs point to a Labour Club victory in the final especially if they keep the same team that performed in the semi:— Eddie Birch, Norman Chaloner, Ron Burke and John Molyneux, a very formidable line up.

The doubles matches have produced many interesting and amusing games, but for one person at least they have become a big headache. I refer to the keeper of the league records, a certain Mr. K. Armson, (now where have I heard that name before). Ken tells me that the amount of pairings has totalled ridiculous proportions and apart from one or two clubs he has now stopped keeping a record of who plays with who and is only counting won and lost. This is a good point to watch for the future for if all clubs will keep the doubles pairings down to a minimum we might be able to have an average table as we do in the singles.

Congratulations this month go to Val Lee of Cadwa for beating Les French of Colonsay 'B' 21-14 in the third. Talking of Colonsay 'B' I have heard a rumour that they beat their 'A' team again. If this is true I can only say—no comment.

Finding anybody to commiserate with was difficult, there is always Les French of course, but I finally picked on John O'Sullivan who had the doubtful pleasure of being beaten by Bill Jones of Trinity 'A' 21-3 in the first game. Mind you John recovered well, he only lost game 16 in the second. One other bloke I feel sorry for is Fraser Farquharson of Wavertree Labour 'C' who has been a victim of the league rule which says that if a player plays 6 times for a higher team, he is unable to play in the Cup for his own team. The silliness of this rule is demonstrated by the fact that poor Fraser has not played in a cup match for any team let alone his own.

One final point. In case anybody is wondering why all the plugs for Ken Armson, well he bought me a drink the other day, and for those of you who know Ken you will realise the significance of this, so I thought such generosity should not go unrewarded, hence the mention.

KEITH FITZSIMMONS.

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Wav. Lab. 'D' ...	18	14	3	1	125
English Electric 'B'	15	13	1	1	106
Police 'A'	18	7	8	3	89
University	12	9	2	1	85
Palatine	14	8	6	—	80
Linnets 'A'	12	9	1	2	77
Rafters 'B'	16	3	8	5	66
Crawfords 'B'	18	4	11	3	63
Liv. Y.M.C.A. 'C'	15	5	9	1	59
Cadwa 'A'	16	3	12	1	59
Vagabonds	13	3	9	1	53
Bath Street 'A' ...	11	3	6	2	51
Maghull	12	2	9	1	37
Stanley House	Withdrawn				

No volunteers have been forthcoming and so the job has fallen to me again. This is really no surprise to me for reading through my four lots of notes and then comparing them with a certain other lot such as division 2. I can easily understand how pleased you all must be to have such brilliant notes like mine to mull over.

It is difficult to assess the true position of the division due to the postal strike for quite a few teams have made very little effort to get their score cards in. The position is further complicated by University's apparent backlog of matches, because of the post it is difficult to find out how many of their outstanding matches they have played. Unfortunately University 'A' and 'B' are already out and with only a couple of weeks to go before their Easter holiday it looks as if the same fate will overtake the 1st team. With a present points total of 85 from 12 they are well in the running but time is not on their side. Should they drop out this will leave Eng. Elec. 'B' as champions and a straight fight between Linnets 'A' and Wav. Lab. 'D' for 2nd place with the odds slightly in favour of the Labour club who have strengthened their team with the inclusion of Steve Fewtrell in place of R. Hamilton. Linnets are still being carried by Dean and Laving and the weakness in the tail end of the team will probably cost them promotion.

Palatine have dropped out of the race as a result of several heavy defeats due to turning out a weaker team. Rafters are also out as a result of a re-ranking which has deprived them of their best player. This has left Brian Jennings as odd-man out

in a Women's team. Still, no more washing up for him.

Bath St. 'A' apparently went on a postal strike before the postmen as five of their first seven home results have still not turned up. They either have a disgruntled postman in the team or one of them is a collector and is holding onto them in the hope they will increase in value. How about making everyone's job easier by parting with these treasured relics.

It looks as if my forecast of Crawfords for relegation was slightly premature as they have trebled their points total in the last eight results received and these include a 9-1 win over Liverpool Y.M. 'C' and a 7-3 win over Palatine. Several other teams are at present below them but I expect most of these to climb above them when the missing results start coming in the only exception may be Maghull who are having a difficult time and it could well develop into a close finish. I am tempted to put my faith in Crawfords who appear to have plenty of fight and this is something which seems to be lacking at Maghull at the moment. Congratulations, anyway, to Crawfords team for making my prediction look so ridiculous.

It is difficult to write anything with so many results outstanding, but a word of commiseration for Vagabonds who appear to have had several matches postponed earlier in the season. They could still have a say in the promotion battle as with their strongest team out they are a useful side and two of their outstanding matches are against Wav. Labour 'D' and Eng. Elec. 'B'.

KEN ARMSON.

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Liv. Y.M.C.A. 'B'	19	16	1	2	133
Rafters 'A'	17	11	7	—	104
Crawfords 'A'	16	11	3	4	101
Orrell	16	10	6	—	95
Sparta 'A'	18	8	7	3	93
Liv. Jewish 'A' ...	19	12	7	—	92
Colonsay 'C'	18	7	9	2	85
Police 'B'	17	6	6	5	82
Eng. Elec. 'C'	19	4	11	4	81
Bath Street 'B' ...	17	5	10	2	74
Hilltop	16	3	9	4	67
Bohemians	18	2	13	3	63
Waterloo Park 'A'	16	2	9	5	60
Odyssey	Withdrawn				

As most clubs have now only five or six matches to play the picture at the top is becoming a little clearer. We have a tremendous tussle between Liverpool Y.M., Rafterers, Orrell and Crawfords. Liverpool Y.M. look to have the division title in their pocket but it is anyone's guess who will join them in Division Two next season. Y.M.'s success seems to stem from the fact that Messrs. Cox, Liu, So, Tsang, Williams, Smith and Ginley are able to play in any order and still come out winners.

At the time of writing Y.M. have 133 pts. from 19 matches, Orrell and Rafterers have 104 pts. from 17 matches, and Crawfords have 101 pts. from 16 matches. Crawfords have the advantage of a game in hand, while Orrell and Rafterers have the easier fixtures. Looking at the fixtures I must compliment Eddie Cameron and Co. because no-one could have designed them better. The final week sees Orrell v. Crawfords and Rafterers v. Liverpool Y.M.!! What a finish to the season. I'm going for Orrell as I predicted last year!!! Although they have had to play reserves in their last few matches I feel if George Wright, Cyril Callaghan, Gordon Kirk and Norman Cooke can get together for the final few matches then they have as good a chance as any.

Rafterers seem a little inconsistent. They had grand victories over Sparta and Colonsay (8-2 in both cases), a 9-1 win at Liverpool Jewish but then crashed 8-2 to English Electric, Eileen Mansell picking up both points for Rafterers and what an excellent season she is having. Wally Sill and Billy Ellard were the two reasons for Rafterers defeat. Both winning their singles and teaming together to beat Eileen Mansell and Graham Gaskell in the doubles.

Crawfords can thank Mabel Francis and Mike Trueman for their high position, being ably supported by Carney, Bryne and Singleton, although I feel they were a shade fortunate to take 10 points from a walkover conceded by Bohemians. Liverpool being at home to West Ham on that occasion!!!

At the lower end of the division it is either Bohemians or Waterloo Park for relegation, with Bohemians being

odds on favourites at the moment—they have 66 points from 19 matches while Waterloo Park have 60 points from only 16 matches. Ironically one of the best match results comes from a Waterloo Park player. It was the defeat of Mike Trueman by S. Butchart 21-19, 21-16. Crawfords won that match 9-1. W. Holmes (Sparta) defeating Cyril Callaghan 21-12, 22-20 is another, and anyone who has beaten me!!! No doubt the editor will not print that last statement.

The remaining clubs at the bottom Bath Street and Eng. Electric look quite safe for another year after having a rather bad start to the season.

ROB LOCK.

DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Old Swan	16	16	—	—	139
Police 'C'	12	10	2	—	83
Eng. Elec. 'D'	16	6	7	3	81
Waterloo Park 'B'	12	7	2	3	70
Police 'E'	14	6	7	1	70
L.Y.C.A.	13	8	3	2	69
Colonsay 'D'	13	2	5	6	57
Rafterers 'C'	14	2	9	3	53
Bath Street 'D' ...	12	3	5	4	50
Liv. Jewish 'B' ...	13	2	7	4	48
Knotty Ash 'B' ...	12	—	12	—	16
University 'A'	(Withdrawn)				
Pirates	(Records)				
Bohemians 'A'	(Expunged)				

Much, I am sure, to everyone's relief Pirates have finally been declared as withdrawn. The position has been very unsatisfactory for everyone as they seem to have been playing only when it suited them. I feel that most clubs would agree that any future application from them should receive a veto as this season has been similar to last as far as they are concerned.

With University and Bohs. also out, the division is sadly depleted and there is no relegation issue left. This will be a relief to Knotty Ash 'B' although they might have found it much more enjoyable in the 5th division this also applies to a lesser extent to Jewish 'B'. Better to be amongst equal opposition and enjoy your matches even more.

The position at the top is still uncertain but Waterloo Park 'B' are going well and could well take 2nd

place at the expense of Police 'C' L.Y.C.A.'s results have been very disappointing and they seem to lack consistency, as a result of this their chance of promotion has now gone. Waterloo Park suffered a setback by only drawing with Jewish 'B' this was due to having their other 'B' team out. They don't seem able to make up their minds which is which.

The middle of the division is fairly even in strength which assures them of enjoyable matches. Colonsay 'D'; Bath St. 'D'; Eng. Elec. 'D'; and Police 'E' form this elite band with no promotion worries and no relegation problems.

Old Swan are still unbeaten and reached the Final of the cup by beating a "shower" from 4B, namely Wav. Labour 'E' 10-0. Fortunately for Old Swan the Labour club's best player was not playing, modesty prevents me from naming him!

I see that Fred Winstanley is still going strong with Rafter's 'C'. How's the back Fred? Their results should show an improvement as they have been strengthened by the re-ranking of Alan Malthouse.

I have been asked by John Linforth to assure everyone that there is no truth in the rumour that he is of Red Indian descent and there is therefore no need for his opponents to greet him by saying "How" indian fashion. The band is merely to prevent his eyelashes getting entangled in his hair.

If you are one of those who will possibly still be playing in this division next season why not consider having a go at writing these notes. It is a very easy and interesting job and gives you the opportunity of having a dig at your opponents. Think it over.

KEN ARMSON.

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Colonsay 'E'	19	14	2	3	135
Trinity 'B'	16	13	2	1	119
St. Edwards 'A'	18	9	4	5	100
Bath Street 'C'	15	8	2	5	97
Wav. Lab. 'E'	14	8	3	3	83
Liverpool Poly 'A'	16	5	7	4	77
Eng. Elec. 'E'	18	4	11	3	69
Knotty Ash 'A'	16	4	8	4	65
Giro	17	3	9	5	64

Beauclair 'A'	12	3	5	4	56
Orrell 'A'	13	3	7	3	54
Police 'D'	12	2	8	2	48
Mossley Hill 'A'	13	—	12	1	25
University 'B'	...	Rec.	Expunged.		

The main news for this issue is that University 'B' are out as a result of w/overs and club difficulties so only one team will now be relegated and Colonsay 'E' and Trinity 'B' have lost 10 points they never earned.

Although it is difficult to assess the real position with so many results outstanding it is clear that Colonsay and Trinity are still holding onto their lead. Colonsay have fell away slightly but Trinity are still going strong and I feel sure the title will be theirs. Bath St. 'C' have been going very well and must be certain to finish in 3rd place. They have certainly shaken things up and given Trinity their heaviest defeat 7-3. They are just a little too far behind to overtake the top two but if their earlier results had been a little better they would definitely have been in the running.

St. Edwards results have not been as good as I anticipated but I believe this is due to club difficulties which prevent them turning out their strongest regularly. They have achieved some success in the cup and will be our representatives in the Final v. Old Swan as a result of a 6-4 win over Beauclair in the semi. The result will be known when you read this but with the best will in the world I just cannot see it being in their favour. I see they conceded a w/over to Colonsay 'E' by turning up on the wrong night. I find this rather ironic remembering what happened in 3B last season. The end result is slightly similar as it gave Colonsay a gift of 10 sets which may affect the final league positions.

My own team-mates have been getting at me since the last issue as I never gave them a mention which they felt they deserved so here it is. We should finish in about 5th place and like other teams our results have been affected by not turning out a regular team. We have had some good wins, however, and were the first team to defeat Trinity. We have also beaten Colonsay and reached the cup semi-final by defeating Giro. A good team capable of beating most teams in the division, come to think

of it the only team we have not beaten is Bath St. who beat us second time round following a draw. We lost 6-4 to Trinity in the return and I am assured by my Team Captain, Tony (Rubber-face) Moon, that this defeat was due to my losing my two singles. Our chief claim to fame lies in the fact that we have the most voluble captain and the most temperamental player (who shall remain nameless) in the division.

Our division has the worst record during the postal strike for getting cards in and this makes it impossible to discuss the merits of the other teams. Beauclair have been a great disappointment as following new signings for their 1st team I expected them to do well but the results have not been as good as I expected. Polytechnic 'A' are doing nicely and should finish in the top half, their best player has been Z. Jarzecki who last season played for University. Orrell 'A', Eng. Elec., Knotty Ash, Giro and Police will form the bottom half but in what order I cannot say. Orrell 'A' had a good result v. St. Edwards losing narrowly 6-4. My neighbour in the Liverpool Stand, Dave Batty, scored a good double over Kelly and Hughes.

Cards or no cards it is certain that Mossley Hill will be relegated as they are firmly anchored on the bottom

and conceding a w/over to Eng. Elec. because of a football match has not helped their position. They had their eye on the wrong ball and no mistake.

KEN ARMSON.

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Liv. Y.M.C.A. 'D'	16	16	—	—	151
Cadwa 'B'	16	12	3	1	115
Crawfords 'D'	12	10	2	—	88
Liverpool Poly	16	9	6	1	80
Orrell 'B'	15	9	5	1	79
Eng. Elec. 'F'	17	7	8	2	79
Vagabonds 'A'	17	6	9	2	77
St. Hughs	18	8	10	—	77
Maghull 'A'	14	7	6	1	68
Cadwa 'C'	14	5	7	2	66
Linnets 'B'	19	4	14	1	66
Beauclair 'B'	19	3	14	2	63
Bedford House	12	4	8	—	45
Cheshire Lines	11	—	10	1	22

Hello Division 5A. Any guesses as to who is writing these notes? Wrong again! There are still no volunteers for this well paid and highly desirable position. Furthermore, I am assured that unless the situation improves, the editor (see "imbecile" last issue) intends playing in 5A next season in order to see if you are really as apathetic as he suspects. Surely one of you can write?

Since the last issue of the Digest, some teams have played nine

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matches, and others only one! I hope that the recent postal difficulties are the reason. At the top of the table Y.M.C.A. 'D' are still unbeaten, having lost only nine sets out of one hundred and sixty—an incredible performance. The race for second place is still very much alive with Cadwa 'B' and Crawfords 'D' having very similar results. The latter I suspect may well have the edge when their matches "in-hand" have been played.

Moving into the middle reaches of the division there are seven teams tightly packed together any of whom could make fourth place their own. For all of these teams, the effect of playing Y.M.C.A. 'D' is a drop of three or four places in the table. Two teams who should finish considerably higher than their present positions are Cadwa 'C' and Maghull 'A'. When these two met recently, the latter won a very tight match at 6-4. A. Howarth and G. Murgatroyd taking five sets for Maghull, while D. Ewan and D. Massie took all four sets for Cadwa. What would have happened had these players played each other, I cannot imagine!

The most improved team in the division must be St. Hugh's, having won six of their last eight matches. One of these was a fine 6-4 win over promotion contenders Crawford 'D' with the whole St. Hugh's team contributing to the success. If this rate of improvement continues they may well finish near the top. Another such team is Orrell 'B' who are steadily improving their position in spite of a recent "white-washing" by the leaders.

At the lower end of the table Cheshire Lines will find it difficult to escape from bottom place in spite of a draw at Polytechnic and a narrow defeat by English Electric 'F'. Together with Cheshire Lines there are three more teams firmly entrenched at the bottom, these being Bedford House, Linnets 'B' and Beauclair 'B'. The first named, of course, have matches in hand, and so there is a good chance that they will escape—only time will tell. One very surprising result was the 9-1 defeat of Beauclair by Linnets, with the former never in the match until 20-all in the last game of the final doubles.

One final match of interest was that between Vagabond's 'A' and Crawford's 'D', where both teams had only three players. This resulted in six walkovers (including both doubles) and a 7-3 win for Crawfords, with Roy Lussey, for the victors being the only player to win twice by actually playing table tennis!

Before I finish may I apologise for not mentioning more individuals and also for any sins I may have committed while writing these notes. However, since I am not a Liverpoolian and I do not play in 5A, such difficulties are bound to arise. Finally may I appeal to someone to write these notes in the next issue, as both the editor and myself are approaching final examinations and time is short to say the least. Cheerio.

PETER KING.

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Crawfords 'C'	19	19	—	—	159
Norris Green	19	16	1	2	148
Old Swan 'A'	18	13	2	3	130
Cadwa 'D'	19	10	5	4	113
Woolton	19	9	7	3	98
Police 'F'	18	10	8	—	92
Colonsay 'F'	17	9	7	1	85
Trinity 'C'	18	5	11	2	82
Liv. Jewish 'C'	18	6	9	4	79
Bath Street 'E'	17	2	14	1	53
Palmerston	15	4	11	—	50
Eng. Elec. 'G'	18	2	16	—	40
Maghull 'B'	16	—	15	1	24
Waterloo Park 'C' . Rec. Expunged					

Although the youngsters from Crawfords seem to be having tighter games in the second half of the season they are still forging ahead in the league and have reached the final of the Stamp Cup. A 6-4 against Old Swan was to be expected but a 6-4 against Palmerston (Jenkinson and Lewis two each) and 7-3 wins against bottom of the league Bath St., and English Electric (Sill and Kitto winning valuable sets) was hardly on the cards.

Old Swan beat Woolton in a real battle of the boys clubs—eight games going to three and four of these to deuce—two for each side. Hall and two doubles made the day for Old Swan.

The Police—I nearly said team but if it is, it's a Rugby team as they have called on fifteen players to date—and Cadwa are both having an excellent season and it should be a great battle for the number 4 spot. Woolton and Cadwa look good coupon bets with a couple of draws apiece—against each other Thompson and Hain starred. Woolton also drew with Liverpool Jewish (Cameron 2) and Cadwa (Power 2) drew with Bath Street (Mills 2). Jewish can be a pretty strong side when M. Cohen and Harding win a couple apiece, as Cadwa found out. Colonsay and Police had a close one with Ruth Jaeger and Field winning two each in the formers 6-4 win. Palmerston must have felt the fates were against them when losing 10-0 at Old Swan with six games going to three.

I never thought I would see the day when teams like Bath St., Maghull and Electric G. would draw more spectators than the Liverpool team with ranked England players playing. Apparently this happens regularly at Woolton B.C. with "gates" of 25 to 50 regularly (Play at the Kop end first—the smell of hot buttered toast at the Gwladys Street end could put you off). Our leading player at the half way stage is Allen of Norris Green who has played in all his team's games and dropped only two sets. His team are to be congratulated on reaching the semi-final of the Stamp Cup at their first attempt.

Despite difficulties Maghull are fighting on. Foster and Kelly have saved them a few white washes.

Maghull lost 28-26 in the third in their doubles game against Norris Green; Crawfords have lost **one** doubles game to date. Mrs. Martin won her team's only game against Trinity. To even things up Smith, (Trinity), was the lone wolf against Crawfords

JACK LAMBERT.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Crawfords	11	10	—	1	93
Colonsay	8	7	—	1	64
Rafters	7	6	1	—	55
Cadwa	9	4	4	1	51
Police	11	4	5	2	47
Crawfords 'A'	11	4	6	1	46
Colonsay 'A'	8	4	4	—	45

Crawfords 'B'	8	3	3	2	42
Maghull	11	1	10	—	24
Crawfords 'C'	10	—	10	—	6

Please excuse the brevity of these notes which I have had to write at two days notice and without the assistance of match cards. I am sure everyone is aware that Colonsay 'A' have withdrawn from the division, I sympathize with Ruth Jaeger and Jean Rimmer who were keen to continue playing in this division, and hope that the team will re-enter next season.

Crawfords reached the final of the Bartholomew Cup by beating Police 10-0 in their semi-final, while Rafters eliminated Crawfords 'B' 7-3 in the other semi-final, Jean Reynolds winning all her games. The final will be held at Palmerston on the 24th March, hope to see plenty of spectators from our division. I think Crawfords will win although I know Pauline Lawrenson is hoping for another winners medal to add to the one she won last year with Cadwa.

In the league Crawfords and Colonsay are still neck and neck. Congratulations to Susanne Manning for beating Mabel Francis a feat only emulated by Reg Royle so far this season and congratulations to Kathy Pemberton and Carole Flood on beating Susanne and winning the doubles at Colonsay a match I regretted missing. Kath Pemberton is getting married in July when she and her fiance qualify and will be leaving Liverpool, Cadwa will miss her, and I would like to wish her good luck from the members of the Women's Division.

My condolences to S. Hayes of Crawfords 'C', what happened to the rest of her team? Cadwa isn't that hard to find.

I understand that there is no truth in the rumour that Mabel is shrinking, just that she sprained her back and was unable to stand straight for three weeks missing a City match and a number of league matches. Hope you recover in time for the Liverpool Closed Tournament Mabel! mind you a few of us stand a better chance if you don't! How about a 100% entry from the women's division? Let's show the Committee that we are keen on Women's table tennis.

VAL IEE.