

16

Table Tennis Digest

Volume 25

Number 2



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OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Table Tennis Digest

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addressed to the Editor
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— Editorial Board —

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Vol. 25

No. 2

Editorial

It is amazing how difficult it is to get anyone to write up the Divisional notes for this Magazine. There are one or two contributors who respond immediately to my request for their "Notes" but then again there are others who always manage to find some excuse for not being able to write their notes in time. I have been the target for a certain amount of criticism for not getting the Digest out on time but I can assure you that it is very nearly impossible to keep to any sort of schedule. For example:— This month the Hon. Registrar and Fixture Secretary has gone out of the County on business and he had to let me have the League Tables before he left. These League Tables were the first items I received for this Issue therefore it is no wonder that they will not be up to date when you receive your copy.

The next problem is that of the Printer. It is necessary for him to have the copy in his hands for two weeks before he can produce the finished Magazine. This has then to be forwarded to the Distribution Manager who has then to distribute the Magazine to the various Secretaries, etc., before it eventually finishes up in the hands of the Reader.

It has also been pointed out to me that the Editorial Board should see the "COPY" before it is sent to the Printers to check if there is anything of a libellous nature which may offend any Member or Club. You will therefore see that there is quite a considerable amount of work to do before you can read your Magazine.

It is with the above in mind that I say to you that in future when I ask for material for the Magazine, to be in by a certain day I can assure you that this is the LAST date on which I can accept copy. I am making this statement for all to see so that if your Division has no Notes published you will know why.

EDITOR

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed.,

Congratulations on the Coming-of-Age—in fact, I thought the Digest had been going even longer than that. There must have been occasions when you and former Editors wondered whether the League members really deserved such a good information service!

Many of the items of interest, controversy and even annoyance haven't changed much over the years, but judging from the Ladies' Notes (a loss of 5 teams or 50 per cent of the strength in one year?) the Women's game appears to have gone back perhaps both in quality and quantity over the last 30 years.

About two weeks ago, my sister, who lives in Heswall sent me the enclosed cutting, which must be from the Liverpool Daily Post and the date about 1934/5. You will see that Liverpool Ladies in those North of England Championships held at Manchester Y.M.C.A. played a very prominent part—and were very successful against International Competition. Both Norah Norrish and Joyce Bartholomew were of course Internationals themselves!

If my memory serves me right, both these ladies and many others, served their apprenticeships playing against men (and a few women of course) in Men's or Mixed Leagues. It can only have been later that Women's Divisions were formed, but you will notice from the Press cutting that at least one all-Women's team Bootle Ladies' played in Division 3 and drew 11-11 with Fairfield "A". The scores listed suggest that teams at that time consisted of 5 players each of whom played 2 games best of three; in other words, if you won every game you won by 20-0. Even earlier than that, teams of 5 (mostly men!) played each other one single game, i.e. a total of 25 games. Perhaps Mr. Editor, you could persuade someone to do a bit of research and write an article about all the various systems of play which have been used during the lifetime of the Liverpool and District T.T. League. I'm sure it would be interesting to many of your readers.

DON FOULIS,

Ex-Chairman, L. & D.T.T.L.

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Dear Sir,

Upon wondering how the "Digest" is celebrating its 21st year when I had No. 1 of Volume 25 in my hand (which of course is late as anticipated). I went back through the previous issues to find out when the error had occurred, and it turns out that Volume 20 has been elevated to 23 on the front cover, but the editorial page still shows the correct No.—viz. 20.

Last season someone must have decided to make a proper job of the lot—and what a job was made of last year's editions—and both cover and editorial page bore No. 24.

Incidentally, I was most annoyed to find that my copy of issue No. 1, Volume 1 (in fact, the very first Digest ever printed) is missing, and if any reader has a copy to spare I shall be most pleased to accept it.

With regard to the Secretary's Notes, wherein he states that this Digest has cost 100% more than those printed three years ago, surely the time has come to consider whether or not the expense to keep the thing going is justified, particularly when one takes into account the trouble experienced last year editorially, and now again this year, when we received our copies at the beginning of January—to find that the League tables cover five matches only.

Perhaps we should now concentrate on producing one or, at the most, two issues per season (not both at the end), and a duplicated sheet of league tables to each club at, say, six week intervals, or drop it altogether and just issue the league tables.

The views of other players would be interesting to hear, in view of the number of adverse comments which have been passing to and fro this season.

Yours faithfully,

N. COOKE,
(Orrell T.T.C.)

P.S.: I now find that I must address my letter to the Editor, "Table Tennis Digest"—Where?

Editor's reply to Mr. Cooke

My word, Mr. Cooke is upset. Last year's Editorial Board and now this year's Editor, (of NO FIXED ABODE) all come in for criticism. What a crime to put the wrong numbers on the covers of Table Tennis Digest 3, 4 or 5 years ago. I wonder who was editor then and why it wasn't noticed sooner. I was amazed that Mr. Cooke did not notice the two blank pages at the end of the Magazine perhaps he is not really concerned but anyhow here is the explanation. The first page was allocated to the advert for the China Match but owing to the delay there was no object in printing it as it would only have been confusing. The other page was allocated to the Divisional notes for Divisions 5a and 5b. I was assured that these notes were on their way to my home but they still have not arrived.

I will be willing to forego, my WAGES from the L. & D.T.T.L. for the season and willingly accept the SACK. Perhaps we may be able to get a new Editor who will come up to Mr. Cooke's requirements. Maybe Mr. Cooke himself would like the job. I would even be grateful for some one to **volunteer** to write some of the Divisional Notes.

Letters continued . . .

16, Handfield Road,
Liverpool 22 ONX.

17th November, 1971.

Dear Sir,

It appears from our early experiences this season that some clubs are ignoring Match Regulation 15 which states that the official starting time for matches shall be 7-30 p.m. and players absent after 8 p.m. when called upon to play shall forfeit such event. In these days when nearly everybody finishes work earlier than in previous years you would think that matches would have no difficulty in starting promptly but alas, this is not so; and up to now we have found the main culprit to be the home teams. My club, Linacre, arrived at one away match to find our opponents club locked and in complete darkness at 7-30 p.m. Eventually one player arrived, opened up and then we had to give him a hand to put the table up. The others arrived after 8 p.m., the match started about 8-10 and finished about 11-35 p.m. which meant that we were getting home about 12-15 a.m. At another away match it was much the same story although the place was open. There was only one opponent there and we gave him a hand to fix the lights before starting late again. I don't know whether other divisions have experienced this but it's very unsatisfactory. For one thing it limits the away captains choice of matches for if there is only one opponent there you can only call on him to play. Could I please appeal to all clubs in the second division, and indeed throughout the league, to make an effort to start all matches on time. We do not wish to start claiming any games of absentees but please be warned. Our patience is wearing thin !!

Yours sincerely,

FRANK LACEY

(Linacre T.T.C.)

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Letters continued . . .

44, Wavertree Green,
Liverpool, L15 6TA.
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12th January, 1972.

Dear Editor,

May I through your columns advise all secretaries that there are far too many matches outstanding at the half-way mark. Last season for the first time ever many secretaries let me down by leaving matches unplayed and by not sending in cards. The big clean up was after the season. I would like to advise all secretaries that the position will not be tolerated this year. Fix your outstanding matches **now**. Check the league tables and advise if you disagree. Matches may be awarded to the away team if the home teams fail to send in cards.

Yours faithfully,

E. CAMERON,
Hon. Fixture Secretary.

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Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Eng. Electric	15	13	—	2	122
Wavertree Lab.	15	13	1	1	119
L'pool Y.M.C.A.	16	13	3	—	113
Colonsay	13	10	2	1	95
Rafters	17	6	6	5	88
Wavertree Lab. A	14	9	4	1	85
Bath St.	15	5	5	5	76
Eng. Electric A	16	6	9	1	75
Wavertree Lab. B	15	6	9	—	63
Mossley Hill	15	6	7	2	61
L'pool Y.M.C.A.	16	3	9	4	61
Trinity	17	2	11	—	42
Wavertree Lab. C	14	1	15	2	36
Linnets	16	2	14	—	34

With the season now at the half-way stage, a definite picture has now emerged with Wavertree Labour, English Electric, Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and Colonsay as the only teams capable of winning the title.

Things are beginning to hot up at the top, the climax of which being the English Electric v. Wavertree Labour game which ended with the honours shared at 5-5. This was a good result for Wavertree as the English Electric team included Tony Clayton. The hero of the night was Wavertree's Dave Roberts who won his two singles against D'Arcy and Youd. Allanson and Clayton won Electrics five sets.

The Y.M.C.A. have strengthened their team with the acquisition of Frank Bailey after a spell out of the City. On his present form he could pose problems for the other top teams.

With six games in hand on the leaders Colonsay will have a say when the final positions are sorted out. I don't think they will win the league due to their early season defeats by English Electric 'A' and Wav. Labour 'C'.

The middle of the table has sorted itself out with Wav. Labour 'A', Rafters, English Electric 'A', Bath St. and Wav. Labour 'B' changing positions week by week as their results come in.

Mossley Hill have cleared the bottom of the table with some good results, beating Wav. Labour 'A' and Wav. Labour 'B' and taking three sets off English Electric.

The relegation issue is almost settled with Linnets and Trinity taking the bottom rungs on the ladder, with Wav. Labour 'C' also in a relatively uncomfortable position.

In the Readman Cup an interesting situation has occurred with English Electric and Wavertree Labour having two representatives in the semi-finals. The draw for the semi-finals has not yet been made but I hope the top teams are kept apart until the final.

RON BURKE.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
L'pool Y.M.C.A. B	15	12	2	1	111
Waterloo Park	17	10	6	1	97
Police	16	9	4	3	96
Crawfords	13	9	2	2	93
Colonsay A	14	10	2	2	89
Linacre	17	8	7	2	85
Colonsay B	14	7	6	1	77
Sefton	14	7	5	2	76
St. Edwards	16	7	6	3	76
Crawfords A	16	6	8	2	75
Wavertree Lab. D	14	5	9	—	56
Beauclair	18	4	13	1	56
Eng. Electric B	17	1	16	—	42
Sparta	12	1	9	2	39

The position at the top is now a little clearer and promotion should be decided from amongst 4 teams. At the moment the Y.M. 'B' have a slight lead over Crawfords and Colonsay 'A' with the Police in close attendance. Both the Y.M. 'B' and Colonsay 'A' have yet to play Crawfords, due to the first half matches being postponed, and the results of these matches could have a great effect on the final position. The Y.M. 'B' did themselves a great deal of good when they beat Colonsay 'A' 8-2 recently and if they keep up that sort of form they must have a good chance of finishing in first position.

Waterloo Park are up with the leaders but they have played a few matches more. I feel that they have lost their chance of promotion due to inconsistency, 7-3 defeats by St. Edward's and the Police, and 8-2 by Crawfords don't help your chances much. They do, however, hold the distinction of being the only team to beat the Y.M. 'B' which they did 6-4.

The main reasons for this win were a double for A. Delamere in the Singles and winning both sets of Doubles. They play the same Doubles pairings every week and this is reflected in their results which are amongst the best in the division.

Linacre and Wavertree Labour 'D' had a close match with victory to Linacre 6-4. A good win here for S. Fewtrell over Harry Reeve 22-20 in the third, although well beaten 21-16, 21-7 by Frank Lacey in his other set. R. Bulmer had a good night for the Labour Club beating Jack Davidson 21-15, 21-18 and Ken Ainsworth 21-14, 21-14.

It looks as though Beauclair will have the doubtful privilege of dropping from the first division to the third in successive seasons. They change their team each week with only Ted Birch playing and winning with any regularity. English Electric 'B' are due for the drop after only one season in this division. They must be a little disappointed as they were joint-winners of Division 3A last season with Wavertree Labour 'D' who occupy another of the relegation places. The other place goes to Sparta who have left themselves too many sets to catch up. It is interesting to note that both teams that came up from 3A are due to go down again whereas the two from 3B are in comfortable positions. Does this mean that 3B is now a stronger division than 3A?

In the cup we are down to the last four. They are Colonsay 'A', Crawfords, Linacre, and Sefton. Colonsay 'A' got through after two drawn games with the Y.M. 'B', their winning total was 27 sets to 24. Linacre beat Beauclair 6-4 with double wins for Ted Birch of Beauclair and Ken Ainsworth of Linacre. Crawfords beat Waterloo Park 6-4 with Alan Reid winning two for Waterloo, and Mike Truman and Ernie Owens getting doubles for Crawfords. Sefton Beat Wavertree Labour 'D' 7-3 with Don Davies of Sefton and R. Bulmer of the Labour Club also getting double victories. On paper either Colonsay 'A' or Crawfords should be the eventual winners but league form counts for nothing in the cup and both Sefton and Linacre have a good chance of pulling it off.

Finally commiserations to Ken Jones of Wavertree Labour 'D' who was

beaten by Bill Crofter of Sefton 21-19, 20-22, 29-27.

KEITH FITZSIMMONS.

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Bath St. A	16	15	1	—	128
L'pool Y.M.C.A.	16	14	1	1	123
Police A	17	11	4	2	103
Trinity A	13	11	1	1	101
Rafters B	17	6	10	1	84
Maghull	14	7	4	3	80
L'pool Jewish	14	8	5	1	80
Vagabonds	15	5	8	2	57
Cadwa A	14	4	10	—	55
Bath St. C	15	5	9	1	53
Linnets A	14	2	8	4	51
Police C	15	3	9	3	50
Colonsay D	14	1	11	2	43
University	14	—	11	3	32

In my last notes I suggested Colonsay or one of the Police teams would be next to suffer a 10-0 defeat. I am happy to say that Colonsay have proved me wrong. The distinction fell to Police 'C' and University on the same night. The victors being Bath St. 'A' and Trinity respectively. I am sorry to relate that University have failed to obtain a set on two subsequent occasions. Relegation for University seems inevitable. With Vagabonds strengthened by the return of Colin Crossley the candidates for relegation are Colonsay and Bath St. 'C'. It is interesting to note that both teams only obtained promotion to the third Division this season. Does this indicate a shortage of players of third Division standard? Indeed on looking through the score cards I notice that the reserves introduced have met with little success. At least a reserve ensures a game for the opponents.

I have noticed that a number of teams have played short this season. Although this gives the opposition three sets on a plate it is something we all do not want to see increase. Perhaps a deterrent would be heavier fines, plus the possible forfeiture of guarantee (Rule 14) and a suitable extension to Rule 20. Suspension of the offending player who is not able to offer a suitable explanation for his non-appearance. The result a possible increase in the League's income or more effort by players and club officials to ensure their teams do not play short.

I think I am right in saying that the

only ladies playing in this Division are at Rafter's, Colonsay and University. Rafter's ladies plus the consistent Brian Jennings are quite capable of taking sets off the top teams. I do not think Trinity will whitewash them in the return fixture. The younger ladies of Colonsay seem to be finding their task harder but nevertheless from time to time have produced some good individual results. Miss Baxendale having defeated A. Chase of Trinity and A. Robinson of Police 'A' in straight sets.

C. Roberts of Cadwa had good wins over B. Cullen and J. Donnelly of the Y.M.C.A. which earned Cadwa 'A' two valuable points. Both Police teams appear to have difficulties with players in addition to their normal "duty" problems. Whilst their "A" team hold a good position the "C" team are hovering in the relegation area and will have to find an early solution to their problems. Linnets would seem to be another team with problems and are in the same category as Police 'C'

There have not been many surprise results but Maghull did draw with Trinity which was a very good effort. The next best was the defeat of Police 'A' by Bath St. 'C' 7-3. There is still time for shock results and perhaps the inconsistent Liverpool Jewish plus Vagabonds and Rafter's will provide them.

No team undefeated and the championship and relegation issues are wide open.

W. B. CUNNINGHAM.

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Rafter's A	16	12	3	1	114
Police B	17	11	2	4	110
Orrell	16	10	5	1	103
Old Swan	13	10	1	2	95
Cadwa	14	9	2	3	92
Colonsay C	12	8	—	4	87
Bath St. B	14	8	4	2	77
Sparta A	17	3	10	4	65
Hilltop	15	2	8	5	64
Trinity B	17	4	11	2	63
L'pool Jewish A ...	16	7	9	—	63
Waterloo Park A ...	17	4	11	2	59
Eng. Electric C ...	16	2	12	2	47
Knotty Ash	16	1	13	2	41

We are now well into the second half of the season, and with six clubs jockeying for the top two places we

have the exciting prospect of a very close, tense finish.

Colonsay (my nap selection) are in sixth position, and after studying a rather mixed up league table, I have drawn two conclusions. That (a) they have not played a match for nearly two months or (b) someone has forgotten were the postbox is!—No doubt Eddie Cameron will believe the latter.

Rafter's have now settled down into their most consistent form for a few years and are at present averaging seven points a match, which will give them a total of between 182-190 pts. A total that should be enough to finish in second place ahead of Old Swan, who I'm afraid will have to learn to accept defeat a bit more readily if they are to progress in the table tennis world.

Cadwa are still in with an outside chance as too are the Police and Orrell. I don't know how Orrell managed to move up the table so quickly, but they must have had some pretty good results. I have no score cards in my possession so I cannot give any further details.

Knotty Ash now look certain to be relegated. It will need something not far short of a miracle to save them, but to be fair I think they have been playing under-strength for most of the season. Who goes down with them?? It looks like English Electric, but they never go down (so I keep telling myself) and besides they are too good a side. Wally Sill, Ron Craddock, Ken Black and "Albi" Parker—surely that's no relegation side. Come on Electric, pull your socks up—we cannot afford to lose another club with a bar!!!

Trinity and Waterloo Park have had a spate of good results and are almost clear, but what has happened to Liverpool Jewish. They have really slumped, and at the time of writing are only eleven points ahead of English Electric. Sparta have also improved, thanks to some steady play by Leeming and Holmes and are in no danger of relegation.

I found it very interesting reading Keith Fitzsimmons' notes for Division Two in the last issue, especially the point he raised about Cup matches being decided on the counting-up of sets.

I wrote about this in Jan, 1970 issue, but unfortunately there was not the response I had hoped for. You may remember the case—Bath St. v Hilltop. First match 5-5, return match 5-5, count-up of sets 25-25, then the mammoth count-up of points which went in Bath's Street's favour by a mere seven points. Ever since then I've regarded the Cup rules as something of a farce, and its not been sour grapes either. Surely we can have another match, and then maybe count up sets, but not points, or even play on until there is a winner as Keith suggests. Anyhow it's up to you, I'm sure our editor would be very pleased to have some correspondence from you, or your club, on this subject.

May I finally, on behalf of Division 3B offer our condolences to the family and friends of Les Singleton, whose sudden death was a terrible shock to all who knew him.

ROB LOCK.

DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
L'pool Y.M.C.A. D	15	14	—	1	121
Crawfords D	15	12	2	1	111
Crawfords B	14	12	2	—	105
Rafters C	15	9	5	1	89
Eng. Electric D	15	9	3	3	86
L'pool Poly	13	7	4	2	82
Maghull A	16	5	7	4	79
Bath St. D	13	5	7	1	56
Police E	14	2	9	3	56
Eng. Electric F	14	3	10	1	51
Cadwa B	14	4	9	1	47
L'pool Jewish B	14	—	12	2	29
Knotty Ash B	14	—	12	2	18

Why is the magazine always so late and out of date? Can the editorial board give a simple answer? While I have visited 4A quite often this season I am not truly a local—so if a local lad wishes to take over—fair enough.

Some terrific games at the top and bottom this period. Liverpool Jewish and Knotty Ash drew 5-5 in the wooden spoon battle with Hall U. beating Cohen M. 25-23; 23-21 and Rotherham beating Anna Cohen 22-20 in the third, Taylor of Jewish was the only double winner.

In the Crawfords derby game Carney and Wilson were double winners but seven games went to three in the 'B' teams 6-4 win.

A rather hefty reserve whom I had seen playing and winning in Division 1 swung the game in Y.M.C.A.'s favour over Crawfords 'B'. Cummings won 2 and his doubles in the Y.M.'s 7-3 win. Polytechnic continued their much improved form with a 5-5 draw against Liverpool Y.M. (Jones R. 2). Jarzecki won two for Polytechnic and with Gilbert lost 22-24 in the third against Wishart and Jones.

English Electric 'D' are another team showing good form taking 3 points at Y.M. and seven at Rafters, Crally and Johnson getting two apiece.

While big scores are still in fashion there are many really tight and exciting results. Maghull seem to be at the centre of many of them losing 6-4 at Rafters (Davey 2), and draws with English Electric 'F' (Sill A. and Callaghan 2) and Bath St. (Clark and Brookfield 2). Jones A. improves each week for Maghull a close knit team who never give in easily.

Police are suffering from the improved standard of the divisions, Cadwa are finding things tougher than Division 5 a 7-3 win over Electric 'F' kept them in good heart, M. Power and Biggs gaining doubles.

Avis was a lone winner against Crawfords 'B'. Andy Byrne is another casualty and is in hospital—get well soon Andy. Crawfords 'D' beat rivals Polytechnic 7-3 yet scraped a 6-4 against Electric 'F'. Hall (Knotty Ash) beat Clark (Bath St.) 21-19; 17-21; 25-23. Colonsay are OUT: Jones (Maghull) beat Georgison (Bath St.) 21-19; 21-23; 22-20.

JACK LAMBERT.

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Old Swan A	16	12	3	1	105
Norris Green	15	10	4	1	98
Crawfords C	15	10	4	1	96
Wavertree Lab. E	13	10	1	2	92
Orrell A	16	9	5	2	91
Giro	13	9	3	1	79
Beauclair A	16	6	7	3	74
Eng. Electric E	14	7	6	1	72
Cadwa C	14	3	8	3	57
Trinity C	14	3	11	—	54
Police D	14	4	9	1	53
Knotty Ash A	15	1	13	1	36
Mossley Hill A	13	1	11	1	33

I never cease to be amazed at the lengths clubs go to just to prove me wrong. First Crawfords lose several matches and spoil their title chances and then Old Swan move Colin Hall up to the 1st team when he only needed two more matches to qualify for the averages. I should confine my predictions to the Labour club as I can at least exercise some control over them.

The pre-Christmas clash of the top four runners helped clear the air a little at the top and at the moment the Labour club have a clear lead. Giro could alter this when they play off their matches in hand but I have just been informed by John Nelson (Giro) that they may find it difficult to maintain their challenge as due to night school commitments Theo Mills will not always be available. It will be unfortunate for everyone if this is the case for a really interesting struggle lies ahead of the top four clubs.

Old Swan were first to slip when in successive matches they lost to Crawford's 'C' 7-3 and Wav. Labour 'E' 8-2. They have lost Colin Hall to the 1st team and his replacement, Steve France, does not appear to be regularly available and this will not help them. Crawfords were next to lose their grip when they lost to Wav. Labour 7-3 and Giro 6-4. They were rather unlucky against Giro as two Giro players had not arrived when the rest of the se's had been played. They turned up as everyone was getting ready to leave and Crawfords generously agreed to play 4 of the 5 se's and lost them all, so an 8-2 victory became a 6-4 defeat.

The clash between Giro and Wav. Labour resulted in a draw, but this was a really first class encounter and although I thought we might have pulled it off a draw was a just result for a really tense and interesting match. Giro's sets all came from Mills and Nelson and Wavertree's from Nearv (1), Taylor (1), a double from captain Moon and yet another doubles win from that seemingly unbeatable combination of Jessop and Taylor.

The Labour club's unbeaten run came to an ignominious end when they lost 7-3 to Norris Green, who after a slow start have strengthened their team and are piling on the pressure.

I feel they have left it a little late to gain promotion but they are obviously going to cause a few upsets amongst the front runners for they have beaten Crawford's and Wavertree and lost 6-4 to Old Swan and Giro.

Mossley Hill and Knotty Ash remain at the bottom and it is difficult to say which one will take the plunge. Mossley Hill have improved a lot as Pratt and Talbot are now playing fairly regularly and picking up sets consistently, particularly Talbot who has won 10 from 16 sets played.

With Orrell, Eng. Elec, Trinity and Cadwa nicely placed in the middle and having shown in the first half that they are all capable of taking sets from all the teams above them everything looks set for a really promising second half. The top five will all be trying to avoid dropping any soft sets and trying for maximum wins and I am sure the others will be trying to make it as difficult as possible for them. Only three 10-0's have been achieved, two by Old Swan and one by Wavertree. This is good for the division and I hope it will encourage the lower teams to try even harder in this half of the season.

KEN ARMSON

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Bedford Hse	15	15	—	—	134
Rafters D	15	12	2	1	101
Linnets B	14	11	1	2	95
St. Hughs	15	10	4	1	95
Orrell B	13	7	4	2	82
St. Johns	16	6	9	1	74
L'pool Poly A	12	7	3	2	70
Vagabonds A	14	5	7	2	65
Maghull C	14	3	10	1	53
Knotty Ash C	14	4	10	—	49
Barker & Dobson ...	13	2	11	—	36
Woolton A	14	2	11	1	33
Goodlass Wall	13	1	12	—	23

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
H.U.C.A.	12	11	1	—	101
Sefton A	9	9	—	—	86
Woolton	10	7	3	—	64
Maghull B	12	6	5	1	61
Linnets C	9	6	3	—	59
Giro A	10	6	3	1	53
Eng. Electric G ...	10	3	5	2	39
Bath St. E	11	3	8	—	39
Cross Inter.	13	2	11	—	37
Police F	11	3	8	—	35
Vagabonds B	11	1	10	—	16

You should see the hotch potch of my division 5B page with teams coming and going and three blank fixtures (six weeks without a game), add to that no divisional notes and a league table in January covering an average of three games and you can see we are in a pretty bad state down here—and believe it or not we pay the same fees as the rest of the league. How about a consolation or subsidiary trophy to compensate for the annual fixture chaos?

Top marks in my book go to the Vagabonds team—Manley, Moran, Ledger and Roach who despite an average of about a point a game they have a 100% turn out and great enthusiasm which must pay off eventually.

Sefton have proved how much out of their class they are by beating title contenders Woolton 10-0 and Huca 9-1. Hughes G. J. winning the one and only against them to date. Huca are the old Lyca team from Division 4A. It is a wee bit tough on the Woolton Club having these two teams in as they are doing so well in their second season in the league. Cross International did well to take three points from Woolton (Latham 2) they also had a nice 6-4 over Police (Green 2) Ashburner who has been mainly responsible for the forming of this new club winning two. Police 6 (Heague 2) and Maghull 4 had a good match with seven sets going to three.

Late (but welcome) arrivals Linnets 'C' are winning and losing some close games Bath St. (D. Lloyd 2) won the game by the two doubles, against Police they won 7-3, Brown J. winning his four games.

Brookfield won two of his sides 3 games against National Giro, Fairhurst and the all important doubles gave Giro the edge. Sylvia Theis proved how enthusiasm for the game can pay off with a double against Cross which gave English Electric a 7-3 win.

Lone star winners Pickard (Cross) v Rafter; Moran (Vags) v Giro; Robinson (Police) v Woolton; Bradshaw (Vags) v Maghull; Heather Jane (Bath St.) 2 v Electric 'G'. Linnets match night is Thursday. Biggs and Waddington (Sefton) won their first game of doubles v Carter and Hughes R. (Huca) 21-8; lost the second 27-25

and won the third 22-20! Did Giro get lost on the way to Sefton? Goodlass Wall 'A' are out.

JACK LAMBERT.

LADIES DIVISION

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Rafters	10	6	3	1	72
Colonsay	8	8	—	—	70
Crawfords	9	6	2	1	60
Crawfords B	7	4	3	—	27
Crawfords A	10	2	8	—	26
Police	10	—	10	—	13

In the Bartholemew Cup, Colonsay beat Crawfords, Crawfords 'B' beat Police 7-3, Sue Anderson won two and Val Ward one single for the Police. Rafter beat Crawfords 'A' 7-3, Reg Jones winning two and Monica O'Donnell one single for Crawfords 'A'.

In the league, the Police team seem destined for bottom place, not yet having won a game, they are at a disadvantage because their shift system seems to prevent them playing their strongest team. In fact they have already played short twice. On one of these occasions Sue Anderson was the only player who arrived to play against Crawfords 'A' and she won two singles!

At the top of the division the three main contenders battle on, first Colonsay defeated a Rafter side, (without Jean MacKenzie), a close fought 6-4, Jean Reynolds winning two singles and Pauline Lawrenson one, and teaming together to win the doubles; while Suzanne Manning won three singles for Colonsay. Then Colonsay, seemed to have eliminated Crawfords by thrashing them 10-0, but the following week, Crawfords fought back beating the full Rafter team 9-1, in fact Crawfords won all the singles but Jean Reynolds and Pauline Lawrenson kept their undefeated record in the doubles. The latest news is that Colonsay have defeated Rafter 6-4 in the second match, Jean Reynolds again winning two singles and sharing the doubles with Pauline Lawrenson; Congratulations to Jean MacKenzie for defeating Suzanne Manning 21-14; 21-10 in this match, the first of us to manage it this season. Hard luck Suzanne you must be disappointed at losing your 100%. With Crawfords still to play Rafter and Colonsay at

Crawfords the league is far from decided.

Reg Jones is having another good season for Crawfords 'A' winning three against Crawfords 'B', two against both Colonsay and Rafter then beating Muriel Cox to obtain the teams only success against Crawfords.

Monica O'Donnell of the same team has also had good wins over Jean Reynolds and Millie Harris, however, I think Crawfords 'B' team of M. Harris, L. Wynne and A. Bell will finish in fourth place in the division.

VAL BLORE.

Owing to the fact that no notes have been received from Division 5A I regret the Magazine has had to go to press without any news from this division.

Twenty-one Years of Finance

To continue the "Coming of Age" theme, it may be interesting to compare the costs of running the League as between the years 1951 and 1971 and as between Income and Expenditure.

EXPENDITURE		INCOME		
	1951	1971		
	£	£	1951 1971	
			£ £	
Administration	132	174	Affil. Fees	136 101
Handbook	24	68	Registrations	285 326
Medals	27	43	Entrance Fees	4 3
Match Exs.	30	78	Donations	12 —
E.T.T.A. Fees	39	74	Cup Fees	27 23
L.T.T.A. Fees	11	18	Fines	13 22
Sundry Exs.	14	27	Sundry Income	38 3
Depreciation	22	—	Open T/ment (prof.) ...	79 10
Special Items	40	—	Closed T/ment (prof), ...	9
Digest	154	150		(loss,11)
			Interest	— 11
			E.T.T.A. Draw	— 47
Total	493	632	Total	603 535

Additional Expenditure £39

Loss in Income £68

We can see from the above that the expenses have gone up by 25% and also that in 1971 we only had 3 "Digests" instead of 6 as in 1951. The cost of these three issues in 1971/2 will be £250 and this has only been kept this low by careful planning and economy.

Over the last few years we have been living on the FAT that was accumulated in the earlier years and by absorbing many of the increases but it becomes more and more apparent that this cannot be continued and that increases will have to be made in order to meet our commitments.

This all points to increases at the next A.G.M. However there is one way in which we can keep the increases down and that is to support the E.T.T.A. Draw. Last year the efforts of the League Clubs and Members helped considerably and the proceeds of the Draw added £50 to our Funds. You will, by now, have received books of draw tickets to sell on behalf of the E.T.T.A. and also possibly help Club funds as well. If you all give this project your full support it could be possible to raise the grand amount of £250 or even more. In that case you never know but it may be possible to reduce the fees.

DON CAMERON, (Treasurer).

Rumour has it that . . .

- In spite of their being no notes in the 'Digest' we are still represented in the Lancashire and Cheshire League.
- After a lengthy trial the Y.M.C.A. decided that Frank Bailey was not good enough for their 'B' team in the 2nd Division and so they ranked him into the 1st team in Division One.
- The notice of the change of date for the 'Merseyside Open' in the last issue was very useful as without it many of us would not have known it was due.
- John Molyneux has finally named the day.
- A deputation from his victims will attend to bombard him with T.T. balls instead of confetti.
- Regular coaching sessions for young players may soon commence in Liverpool.
- Les French was at the England v. China match as a spectator and not to see if any of the Chinese players were good enough for his 1st team pool.
- The absence of scorecards from Sparta in the 1st half was due to the fact that they did not know where to send them.
- Sefton cannot decide whether Don Davies is a 2nd division player playing in the 5th division or just a 5th division player.
- A re-appearance of Ken Harrison in the Beauclair team could bring about a 100% increase in their match wins and doubles wins.
- John Molyneux will offer to organise a League Dance.
- Following his recent defeat of Pete D'Arcy and his success in reaching the Final of the Men's Doubles in the Cumberland Open, Don Davies is hopeful of a seeding in the Liverpool 'Closed'.
- Wavertree Labour's progress will go into reverse this season with the relegation from the 2nd division of their 'D' team.
- In spite of the work put in by Renee Sturgeon we will fail to reach our target for the sale of E.T.T.A. 'Lincoln' draw tickets.
- This will partly be the fault of the E.T.T.A. for their incredible decision to make a 100% increase in the price of tickets to 5p.

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Lancashire & Cheshire League

Many changes have been made in the constitution of the teams representing Liverpool since the first matches of the season.

The selection committee has pledged itself to a youth policy and all credit to them, are determined to see it through. Team selection is a thankless task at any time, but when teams do not "select themselves", the work is more controversial and decisions harder to make. In preferring youth, the committee have, perhaps, eased the task of some of the other teams in our divisions, I feel that you cannot drop players like George Smith and Ted Mandaluff from your team without your opponents chuckling to themselves. Ted and George have both rendered yeoman service to our league and the selection committee really appreciate their past efforts.

After the first match of the season when we lost 7-3 to Manchester, the Ladies' were re-ranked and our present team of Suzanne Manning, Brenda Williams and Barbara Kirkman then went on to defeat Oldham 10-0.

The ladies 'A' team of Val Lee Blore (no, that's not Chinese), Kathy Baxendale and at present Ruth Jaegar, have won all their matches very convincingly. As 'A' teams cannot be promoted to the first division, our team has the remarkable record over the past 2½ seasons of P 19 W 19 F 168 A 22.

To date the Men's 1st team has beaten Blackpool and Manchester and lost to Bolton, whilst the 'A' team has lost to Preston 'A' and Burnley, drawn with Manchester 'A' and beaten Blackburn 'A'.

An abundance of enthusiastic "Under-21" players led to the management committee agreeing to enter a second youth team in the division. As this division was depleted by the early withdrawal of Stockport Y.O.C., our entering probably saved it from collapsing.

The playing strength of this second team was soon revealed when it was found that their playing results were almost identical to the first team, and the clash between them, just before Christmas, ended in a draw. The return match is at the Wavertree Labour Club on Friday, February 4th, when the teams will be 1st—J. Marshall, C. Brewer, P. Tsang. 2nd—P. Lee, C. Cummings, E. Hardman.

After a shaky start, when nerves were clearly visible, the junior team has settled down to give a good account of themselves. Losing their first two matches, both 6-4 to Stockport 'A' and Wirral they have since beaten Manchester and Macclesfield and lost 6-4 to Farnworth.

Playing results to December 31st, 1971

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Ladies' 1st team	2	1	0	1	2
Ladies' 'A' team	4	4	0	0	8
Men's 1st team	3	2	0	1	4
Men's 'A' team	4	1	1	2	3
Youth 1st team	4	3	1	0	7
Youth 'A' team	3	2	1	0	5
Junior team	5	2	0	3	4

Players who have appeared for the various teams, and number of appearances are:—

Ladies' 1st—S. Manning (2), B. Williams (1), B. Kirkman (1), V. Blore (1), M. Francis (1).

Ladies 'A'—B. Williams (2), B. Kirkman (2), V. Blore (2), K. Baxendale (4), R. Jaegar (1), J. Rimmer (1).

Men's 1st—A. Clayton (2), W. Allanson (3), P. D'Arcy (3), A. Tolson (1).

Men's 'A'—G. Smith (1), E. Mandaluff (1), T. Owens (4), A. Tolson (3), J. Marshall (3).

Youth 1st—P. Tsang (4), J. Marshall (4), R. Burke (1), P. Lee (1), C. Brewer (2).

Youth 'A'—P. Lee (3), C. Cummings (3), J. Smith (3).

Junior—C. Field (5), B. Davey (5), L. Haynes (2), K. Williams (3).

ALEC DAVIDSON

The Merseyside 2 Star Open Tournament

November, 1971

Nicky Jarvis became the new Merseyside Open Champion at the recent Tournament, held at Dunlop's Canteen on November 27th. Seeded number 3, he beat all his opponents in straight games, including the second seed, Brian Burn, 17 and 14 in the Semi Final and then his doubles partner and fifth seed, Jimmy Walker, 13 and 18 in the Final. A great performance indeed.

Jimmy Walker had earned his place in the Final by narrowly defeating the top seed, Tony Clayton, 21-19, 15-21, 23-21 in the Quarter Final and then more easily disposing of 4th seeded Mike Johns 21-16, 21-18 in the Semi Final.

The most successful local players were George Smith, John Marshall, Ted Mandaluff and Nick Gourley, who all got through two rounds before being knocked out.

Jarvis and Walker also reached the Final of the Men's Doubles but here they were beaten by Tony Clayton and Laurie Landry 22-20, 21-15. Clayton and Landry took the Men's Doubles Title without conceding a set to any opponents.

The new Merseyside Open Woman Champion, Miss Susan Lisle, had little difficulty in winning the title. No opponent came near to taking a set off her, and her victims included Barbara Kirkman, Suzanne Manning (Semi Final) and Linda Jones from Wales in the Final.

The Women's Doubles Title went as expected to Susan Lisle and Janice Green but their Final against Judith Walker and Sylvia Broadbent was no walk-over. The score was 23-21, 26-24, a very close result indeed. The local pairings of Suzanne Manning and Brenda Williams, and Barbara Kirkman with Kathy Baxendale, had each been knocked out by the Walker/Broadbent combination, each in three games.

Suzanne Manning kept the local flag flying by taking the Junior Girls' Singles Title, defeating top seeded Judith Walker in two straight games, 19 and 18, in the Final. Judith had earlier defeated the fourth seed, Brenda Williams, 16 and 15 in the Semi Final.

The Junior Boys' Title went to Donald Parker, who faced the unseeded Michael Owen from Wales in the Final. Owen lost 15 and 11, but earlier he had recorded two very good wins over J. S. Nix, seeded 3, in the Semi Final, and also Brian Johns, the second seed, in the Quarter Final. Donald Parker had accounted for our own John McNee in the Semi Final, 12 and 16, but McNee had earlier disposed of the fourth seed, S. Rowe, 21-15, 23-21, a creditable performance.

The Veterans' Final almost brought us another local victory, but unfortunately Roy Jones just lost 23-21, 25-27, 17-21, to L. J. Browning. In his Semi Final of this event, Browning had also defeated Ted Mandaluff in three games, so preventing an all-local Final.

No Mixed Doubles event was held this year and this helped considerably in ensuring a fairly prompt start to the Finals. A number of local players and officials, with friends, gave untiring help throughout the day and I must record my sincere thanks to them all for this.

BRIAN LEESON

(Referee and Tournament Secretary)

Net Cords

Have you noticed that the front of the "Digest" no longer gives the date of issue? Mind you, if the 'Editorial Staff' doesn't know when, how can the Printers? And how about Volume No. 25 in the 21st year! The mystery deepens.

* * *

No doubt about the most despondent 1st Division player of the season, Fraser Farquharson after losing two straight to Janet Rumjohn in her first game for two years. Second most despondent? Janet's Uncle Ron, he just scraped home in the third against the same opponent.

* * *

I've just heard that this is to be the last season before Alan Heague retires as Secretary to the Police team. He'll be missed, for he has done a great job, under natural difficulties, to ensure that the Police have continued to fulfil fixtures with great reliability.

* * *

I am informed by an impeccable source that Alan Heague is by far the longest serving secretary in the league, I'm sure that will astonish members of Wav. Lab. but I can assure them that Ken Armson only seems to be the longest serving secretary.

* * *

Having recently played against Colonsay, I can now understand why John O'Sullivan appears to be about the only bloke who hasn't played for them this season. All that hair waving about must awaken tender memories.

* * *

Nice to see the long explicit notes about the 5th Divisions in the last issue. Surely there must be someone in these Divisions who can write! Remember chaps, it's one sure way of getting your name in the "Digest".

* * *

How did Eddie Cameron describe the 2nd Division, 'talented with limited time?' Over to you Mr. Fitzsimmons, not to mention the talented youngsters from the Y.M.C.A. Apart from then, judging by some of the pushing matches I witnessed last season in that division, time was of the least consideration.

* * *

At last the iniquity of the Selection Committee is revealed! All their promises concerning encouragement of youth have been shown to be false. Leaving "Mandy" out of the "A" team indeed, it's enough to encourage everybody to start playing with sandwich bats.

* * *

Sad to see the Ladies divisions reduced to Crawford's and two others, it's difficult to see what can be done to improve the situation, as even Les French's girls have had to withdraw, despite being made favourites for the league. Tough Val, but possibly you'll learn from Roy Smith, that forecasts made in the "Digest" are as about as reliable as those made about the weather.

* * *

A rumour that has recently reached me stating that a certain club who do not appear likely to win the league by using the Cheshire county team are considering approaching the Yorkshire team for next season can be safely discounted, I hope.

JOHN MOLYNEUX

All England Club Championship

Wednesday, May 26th, 1971

The occasion was the semi-final of the 'All England Club Championship' and the contestants, English Electric representing Liverpool and that wonder table tennis machine from Middlesbrough—Ormesby. Both teams had played and beaten the champions of four other regions to reach the semi-final. The Liverpool team had accounted for Blackburn, Bolton, Manchester, Boston Lincs, and included such well known table tennis scalps as Kelly, Ingber, Schofield, Hill, Mike Johns and many others. The English Electric team of Wally Allanson, Tony Clayton and Pete D'Arcy could feel justifiably proud at reaching this stage of the competition particularly as all their games had been played away from home.

Ormesby were the present champions and had played in Europe the previous year losing to the Yugoslavian Champions in Yugoslavia (wot no help from the E.T.T.A.). Their team was Nicky Jarvis England number one junior, Alan Ransome fresh back from the World and Commonwealth Championships and Dennis Neale.

Thanks to the co-operation of the Liverpool League and the English Electric Sports and Social Club the concert room did look like a table tennis arena and brought grunts of approval from the leading players. The room was comfortably full all evening and nearly 250 people watched the game at various times during the night.

All the games went according to the book, with Pete D'Arcy pulling out all the stops but losing to Neale and Ransome and Wally Allanson leading Dennis all the way but losing 19. In between Tony Clayton who on his return from the Far East, received a great ovation, had beaten Ransome and Jarvis in two straight. With the score at 4-2 the crunch game came not only for English Electric but also for the England selectors—Tony Clayton and Dennis Neale. Despite the score of 19, Tony took the first game fairly comfortably, but Dennis came back in and won the second 17 and slowing the game down in masterly fashion won the third and the match for Ormesby. (And gave the selectors a headache).

Thanks go to the many spectators and friends who made the evening a success, to umpires Ken Armson, Alec Gould and Jimmy Byrne, to Mr. and Mrs. H. Hughes, B.H. League, Mr. and Mrs. Doncaster, Liverpool League, Mr. and Mrs. G. Yates (Deputy Chairman E.T.T.A.), Mr. and Mrs. G. Gamble (President B.H. League) and last but by no means least Arthur and Lil Upton, Lancs. T.T.A. and Liverpool Chairman, all helped to make it a real Table Tennis Social event. The fact that Ormesby were over an hour late gave everyone time for a drink and a chat !!

With full radio and press coverage and many kind words from George Yates at the after the match supper this was undoubtedly the outstanding game in the English Electric Clubs' 24 years history.

JACK LAMBERT
