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Table Tennis Digest

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Editorial

Are we on the eve of a resurgence of the once powerful Merseyside scene? An article on our President covers the halcyon days when we were one of the three major powers with London and Manchester. World champions rated the Merseyside Open as a must, we filled the Liverpool Stadium for an International match v. Czechoslovakia, the Philharmonic v. Ireland and the Picton Hall for the finals of the Merseyside Open.

Since then the whole aspect of the game and life has changed, we didn't suffer with televisionitis and sponge rubber bats, we had to make our own entertainment and table tennis was part of it, the players did the work NOT the bats, finger spins were banned — now far worse spins are imported by sponge. Tactics, strokes and fitness were essential and made the game a spectacle worth watching (Apart from the odd two pushers meeting, and this still applies). Whereas at recent top level finals top players have spent 95% of the game using one shot. Although at club level I must admit the games generally are more varied and exciting.

So we have suffered with changing times and equipment, but so has everyone else and we find places like Middlesbrough, Bolton, Stockport, etc., forging ahead at every level from the staging of international games to individual and city performances. How and why did this happen? Perhaps a more knowledgeable person than myself can answer this question.

A couple of observations — I don't think it did Merseyside Table Tennis any good when Liverpool and Wirral split. Up to a few years ago a mere handful of our members entered outside tournaments, now we find the numbers far more substantial. We now have a terrific influx of young players willing to learn and eager to improve. With a little extra effort our girls can push themselves into the top ladies grade, the chaps although lagging behind are keen enough to come good — the quicker the better.

So things are looking a little brighter, let's hope they continue this way.

Is there one little niggle you have which comes top of your niggling list? Mine is that after teams drop out at the beginning of a season (This I feel is inevitable with the time lag between forms in June and season in September) it is the resulting chaos that disturbs me.

This season again a division was three teams short leaving them without matches for six weeks. All the answers to the problems are difficult, personally I would be quite ruthless and rehash the handbook complete, so that all the divisions were O.K. even if the handbook was in a mess, or leave the issuing of the handbook until a couple of weeks after the commencement of the season, anything so long as teams are not left without a game for six weeks.

LOCALS ABROAD

I am not too fussy about the new title but this column takes over from the Lancashire and Cheshire notes which are now included together with the other city and county games, tournaments and competitions in which local players take part.

The Liverpool Men's team which is Wally Allanson, Tony Clayton and Pete D'Arcy (English Electric) with Don Davies (Sefton) non-playing captain made the possibility of winning Division 1 of the Lancashire and Cheshire League very remote when they only drew with lowly Blackpool. John Marshall (Rafters) stood in for Clayton again. Allanson won his three games.

The ladies team which is selected from Val Blore (Cadwa), Barbara Kirkham, Sue Manning and Brenda Williams (Colonsay) non-playing captain John O'Sullivan (Colonsay) did themselves a similar bad turn when losing to Manchester 6-4. But from the ladies 'A' team Val Blore (Cadwa), Jean Mackenzie (Rafters), Julie Black (English Electric), non-playing captain Ken Black (English Electric) we have news of an excellent win over Southport 8-2, in their crunch game. In her debut against Preston, Heather Jane (Bath Street) won two games in a 6-4 win. The team have won their six games to date 47-13 and are full of confidence for a league championship win. Their final game is against Macclesfield on Friday, March 30th at English Electric, see you there — especially the girls!

At the West Midland Junior Tournament Brenda Williams (Colonsay) won the under 17 tournament and with Julie Black (English Electric) was runner-up in the Doubles.

One better than the runner-up at the Pontefract Open for Tony Clayton which he won.

The 'A' team of George Smith and Paul Tsang (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.) and Alan Tolson (Wavertree Labour) are in a strong second place, having drawn and lost one. Ron Marshall (Rafters) is the non-playing captain and must take a special vote of thanks for being the only non-committee man to take on this onerous task. The job of captain-cum-umpire — cum-chauffeur — cum-general factotum does not carry a fabulous salary and I am sure the players appreciate the terrific job these boys do, as I am sure we all do.

A unique day out for Wally Allanson (English Electric) playing for Lancashire 'A' 8 v. Derbyshire 2 in the afternoon and Lancashire 7 v. Lincolnshire 3 in the evening.

Julie Black (English Electric and Roby Comp.) won the girls under-15 Lancashire Schools championship and Peter Rutherford (Colonsay and De la Salle) won the boys under-13 championship. Congratulations to both our young stars and good wishes for the future.

continued on next page

George Smith (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.) lost to B. Starkie (Yorkshire) the eventual winner of Lancashire Open Veterans Singles in the semi-final 19-21, 21-11, 21-23; tough luck George.

Val Blore (Cadwa) has a 100% record in the Liverpool Ladies 'A' Team.

English Clubs Championship: Moor Allerton (Leeds) 8, Otis Elevator (Liverpool B.H.) 1; English Electric (Liverpool) 9, Levers (Ellesmere Port) 0; Lever (Wirral) 5, Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital (Oswestry) 4, Round 2: Lever 1 v. English Electric 8, Round 3: English Electric v. Gatley Y.M.C.A. or Moor Allerton.

With two games to go the Youth Team, Paul Tsang and Pete Lee (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.) and Eric Hardman (Bath Street), non-playing captain Brian Leeson (Colonsay) find themselves with an interesting finish to the season. They have two games with Blackpool teams still to play — they should on form beat the 'A' team, but will find the first team a different proposition, a win here may be enough to win their division — we hope.

The junior team of Colin Field (Colonsay), Brian Davey and Keith Williams (Rafters) — non-playing captain Alex Davidson (Linacre) remain undefeated despite a close one against Wigan who were looking for a player at 8-30 !

Lancashire and Cheshire League finance is not at its best and a proposal is coming forward for a 25p per player registration fee — to be carried BY THE PLAYER.

Paul Tsang won the 'British Chinese' Championships in Birmingham.

J.A.L.

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'Our President'

When I was considerably younger (no cracks here please) I had three heroes — Dixie Dean, Tommy Lawton and Ken Hyde. When any of these players was omitted from an England team, which was not very often, I was a very disappointed and angry young man.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Dixie Dean on two occasions and once had the 'doubtful' pleasure of meeting Ken Hyde on the table and lost 21-11, 21-13, in the Closed or the Merseyside I am not sure which, I am not sure how many points he gave me was it 11 and 13 or only 10 and 12? !

However, this same Ken Hyde is President of our league, the youngest of three sporting and table tennis conscious brothers and like the Rumjahns guided by a sporting and table tennis conscious father, 'Pop' Hyde was one of our local table tennis pioneers taking the boys Rumjahn and Hyde on exhibition tours mainly of South West Lancashire but to all parts of the country as well, to further the cause of our game, they were often joined by the world famous circus of Barna, Bellak and Szabados.

Cecil, Eric and Ken were the three brothers, but it was the latter two who really made their presence felt in the game and formed a superb doubles partnership. They had connections with Elm Hall Drive, Bohemians and the strong City club where they carried out most of their practice but were best known as members of Clubmoor which was attached to the cricket club in the rear of the old Clubmoor cinema now inevitably a supermarket in Townsend Lane.

Their contemporaries in the team were Ted and Peter Rumjahn (England), Fred Bamford (Wales) and Dave Class (Liverpool). Five internationals and a city player, not too bad a line-up?

One of our Vice-Presidents was also receiving his fair share of international caps at this time Don Foulis who I believe was our first ever international.

Ken was first capped for England against Ireland in 1932, between then and 1939 he was capped against most European countries — France, Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, etc., and the U.S.A.

He played regularly for the Swaythling Cup team between 1933 and 1939 and in the Dinard Cup team against France.

He won most of the open tournaments, Lancashire, Cheshire, Welsh, Midlands, Merseyside, all of these were major tournaments then, but not the English Open.

One of his outstanding performances was to beat Victor Barna in the Evening Chronicle invitation tournament in 1937, he was the first Englishman to beat Victor Barna in a tournament. His defeats were few and far between and he cannot remember being beaten between 1933 and 1939 in league games.

When super sales promotion was little known Eric and Ken Hyde bats sold 12,000 up to 1936 and there were still a couple of good sales years to come pending Adolf !

There was no ranking list as there is today so during these years you could say Ken Hyde was permanently in the top four, never lower than four and quite often England number one.

This may be a brief and sketchy coverage of the bloke who holds the number one place in our handbook, but I think you must agree that the right chap is in the right place, the memories of Peter Rumjahn, Ken Hyde and myself are not infallible, so if anyone feels they can iron out the wrinkles or fill in the gaps of this or any other article for that matter — the space is yours.

J.A.L.

Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Eng. Elec.	19	18	0	1	158
Liv. YMCA	19	17	1	1	157
Wav. Lab.	20	16	1	3	145
Trinity	20	8	8	4	107
Liv. YMCA 'A' ...	19	7	8	4	86
Rafters	20	6	11	3	84
Palmerston	18	7	8	3	82
Eng. Elec. 'A' ...	19	5	11	3	80
Bath St.	17	7	8	2	77
Colonsay	20	3	10	7	77
Crawfords	20	4	13	3	76
Wav. Lab. 'A'	18	5	8	5	76
Wav. Lab. 'B'	18	4	10	4	68
Liv. YMCA 'B' ...	21	4	14	3	67

Only a run of amazing defeats can now stop English Electric from winning the title (again). This situation was helped by a run of bad results from Wavertree Labour. The 'rot' was started by their 9-1 'hammering' by English Electric. Nine more sets (three to each team) were dropped to Trinity, Crawfords and Wavertree Labour 'B' and finally a 6-4 defeat by Wavertree Labour 'A' team.

The Cup draw has again managed to rob us of a great final (no disrespect here Trinity). English Electric beating Y.M.C.A. in one semi-final and Trinity defeating Y.M.C.A. 'A' in the other. As this seems to happen every year, maybe it is time to 'seed' two or four of the top teams.

Writing these notes becomes more and more difficult as the season progresses. Things would be easier if the home teams filled their record in (take note English Electric, Crawfords, Y.M.C.A. 'B' and Colonsay). A lot more information could be obtained if the order, in which the games were played, was placed down the side of the cards, thus explaining how the games progressed.

One game which seems to have progressed in an 'even' way was Trinity v. Wavertree Labour 'A' with six games going to the third game. Wavertree got the draw with both doubles, two singles off Yours Truly and one from Ted Gilmour. The Wavertree 'A' team is now in a little bit of trouble after a run of bad results, but this has been relieved a little with their 6-4 defeat of the

Wavertree 1st team. (John McNee losing both singles here).

The tail-end teams are making a great fight out of the relegation issue with every player in those teams trying their hardest to win points for his team (who knows relegation may be decided by your doubles wins). Amongst those showing good form at present are Keith Fitzsimmons and Mike Truman of Crawfords; Peter and Ronnie Rumjahn of Rafters; Alec Bryce and Sammy Holland of Palmerston (Mossley Hill) and Eddie Moran and Norman Chaloner of Wavertree Labour 'B', who are all playing well. Val Franco and Billy Clayton have both made welcome returns to the Bath Street team, although they don't seem to have a settled team they still maintain their form, especially in their doubles performances.

Crawfords seem determined to prove the predictions I made wrong and at my own team's expense. Six sets off two of the top teams has helped relieve the pressure a little. They have a very good doubles average and even against the top teams they seem to take either one or both of the doubles. My own team, Labour 'B' had two good results against Bath Street and Trinity (both 8-2). The Trinity game was a good team performance with Fraser Farquharson having a great night beating Ricky Brown 21/15; 22/20; and Bill Harris 10/21; 21/19; 21/12 in some of the best table tennis seen at the Labour Club for years.

NOTE:—Roy Smith tells me he beat Keith Fitzsimmons 28/26 in the third, this is the third time this season he has won over 26 in the third. (Nice one—Roy).

RON BURKE

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Sefton	20	15	1	4	140
Waterloo Pk	20	14	3	3	124
Police	20	11	7	2	120
Trinity 'A'	19	10	8	1	111
Bath St. 'A'	18	12	4	2	108
Linacre	18	8	8	2	92
Colonsay 'A'	19	8	8	3	91
Liv. YMCA 'C'	20	6	12	2	90
Colonsay 'B'	19	6	10	3	89
Rafters 'A'	19	4	9	6	86
Old Swan	19	7	12	0	85
Wav. Lab. 'C'	17	6	9	2	66
Wav. Lab. 'D'	16	0	16	0	18

Since the last issue there has been some change in placings at the bottom which are probably due to the fact that several teams suddenly awoke to the fact that relegation was looming up. Old Swan appear to have pulled clear with wins over Trinity, Liverpool YM and Police and as Trinity have agreed to replay the match they claimed more bonus points for them look certain. The re-rank by Colonsay which brought Ron Evans into the 'B' team has been of great benefit to the team as it altered the team order. Having taken only 42 sets from 11 matches they have, at the time of writing, taken 33 sets from the next five matches including a crushing 9-1 win against Linacre. Rafters on the other hand have only gained 27 sets from their last 6 matches and have dropped to 3rd from bottom. But as these results include draws with Waterloo Park, Sefton and Linacre and a 7-3 win against Old Swan I have a feeling that they are going to hand over their relegation problems to someone else. Any team that can produce such results must be capable of staying up.

In spite of their efforts to move up Wavertree Labour 'C' are now firmly anchored next to bottom and it looks as if a miracle will be needed if they are to avoid the drop. Whilst these teams have been trying to gain ground the Y.M. 'C' in spite of a re-rank which should have strengthened the team have been losing ground rapidly and have gained only 19 sets from their last six matches and could find themselves being overhauled by Colonsay 'B' and Rafters 'A'. All the teams involved have to play several of the others in the run-in which makes it difficult to forecast final positions but I think the two Waver-

tree teams will go down—it hurts having to write that—accompanied by Rafters or Y.M. 'C'. But with those results of Rafters in mind anything can happen, even miracles!

With the top four unchanged at the moment Sefton have the title sewn up as Waterloo have no chance of overhauling them as there has been no improvement in the margin of their victories. I would also advise Waterloo to look over their shoulder for Bath Street with the same team as for most of the season are now going really well and are within reach of Waterloo and Police and will probably have overtaken Trinity when the league table is published. I was right about their re-ranking as the team has remained unchanged and the improvement forecast in their results has been maintained. Promotion has become a definite possibility with the whole team pulling their weight.

Linacre remain in the middle but have the consolation of a place in the Rumjahn Final as a reward for their efforts. Like most people I would like to see them win the cup but although I know we can expect them to give of their best as always I just cannot see them defeating Sefton, but nothing would please me more if they prove me wrong.

Like Waterloo the Police have failed to improve on the first half performance and will again fail to gain promotion and a move down to 4th place is on the cards. If they are to have a better chance next season the team must be strengthened. Colonsay 'A' have made little if any improvement and continue to slide down the table and at the moment are level points with Old Swan compared with the last issue when six places and 20 points separated them.

A few good wins, A. Chase (Trinity) a double against Waterloo, both in two straight over Alan and Graham Reid, J. Doherty (Y.M.) a two straight win over Bill Crafter and for John O'Sullivan what was probably a satisfying double over D. Crispin and J. Linforth. Playing as a reserve for Old Swan K. Linforth beat Ron Jones (Y.M.) A couple of firsts, G. Taylor (Wav. 'D') won his first by beating Dave Murray (Sefton) and P. Fleming (Wav. 'D') broke his

duck by beating Alf Southall, not a bad scalp for your first win at this stage of the season.

An interesting point, Sefton have met Waterloo Park four times this season, have failed to beat them and have been defeated by them yet they succeeded in knocking them out of the cup and are riding high and dry above them in the league.

KEN ARMSON

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Vagabonds	19	18	1	0	157
Police 'A'	19	15	4	0	121
Liv. YMCA 'D'	19	14	4	1	119
Crawfords 'A'	20	13	6	1	118
Rafters 'B'	19	11	5	3	117
Eng. Elec. 'B'	19	6	9	4	102
Liv. Jewish	19	7	9	3	89
Cadwa 'A'	18	8	9	1	87
Bath St. 'C'	19	8	10	1	87
Maghull	17	8	8	1	87
Liv. Poly.	20	3	15	2	70
Crawfords 'B'	19	1	16	2	40
Crawfords 'D'	19	0	16	3	36

Vagabonds suffered their first defeat in the hands of Liverpool Y.M.C.A. In fairness to Vagabonds it must be said that they forfeited three sets owing to the non-appearance of Ted Barnes due to fog. Pete Roberts and Brian Cullen both defeated Roger Lowey and also won the doubles in the 6-4 victory.

Liverpool Police currently in second spot defeated close challengers Liverpool Y.M.C.A. Alan Wood and Arthur Garrett winning two each. In between these two defeats Liverpool Y.M.C.A. had a comfortable 9-1 win over Crawfords 'B'. Without doubt Y.M.C.A. are the youngest team in the division. They have put up some good performances ably captained by non-playing veteran Dennis Corkery. If they are kept together next season Ken Roscoe, Pete Roberts, Neil Roberts and James Brown, will probably show enough improvement to make the team good enough to win the division.

Paul Byrne, formerly of St. Edward's has strengthened Rafters 'B' and is winning consistently. However, he was defeated by Dave Harrison of Liverpool Polytechnic 21-13; 21-18. In fact Dave has only lost one and this was to Alan Wood

of the Police who beat him in straight games 13-21; 18-21. Polytechnic seem to be drawing away from the relegation zone.

With Z. Jarjecki, H. Habib and G. Wyld winning occasional games their problems are easing.

English Electric have been consistent throughout the season. Two good performances at Police where they lost 6-4 and at Rafters where they won 7-3 keeps them in the top half of the table. Young Alec Sill won two in both matches and with Ron Craddock was in the winning doubles partnerships. Another young player who is improving under the watchful eye of his father and coaching at English Electric.

The ladies of Crawfords 'D' anticipated playing Division 5 at the commencement of the season. They found themselves in this division because Crawfords had to withdraw two teams. To add to their problems Mabel Frances was unable to play in the first half of the season. In addition Muriel Cox was giving preference to the Southport League. Without their one and two their task was even more difficult. Marie Lupton, Lil Wynne, Milly Harris and company carried on despite adverse results. With the return of Mabel Francis results have improved and they may yet avoid bottom place at the expense of Crawfords 'B'. So far as the Bath Street team are concerned we considered the matches against Crawfords 'D' two of the most enjoyable of the season. I am sure other clubs felt the same way and we will miss them next season, if they are relegated.

I have heard from Joyce Barton that this might be the last season for the Crawfords club in its present form, so if any club can offer accommodation to Crawfords they will be pleased to know—just in case.

Bath Street who have dropped down the table rapidly, had their second win of the second half of the season at Crawfords 'D' last week 7-3. It could have easily been 6-4 or a draw. Only a Cyril Smith special at a crucial time saved the doubles against Marie Lupton and Lil Wynne.

Liverpool Jewish did not get off to a good start to the New Year, failing to turn up at Rafter's on New Year's

day. Rafter's submitted a card for a walkover but subsequently extended goodwill and played the Jewish a fortnight later. The result 9-1 for Rafter's, Dave Money obtaining the consolation by defeating Jean Reynolds.

Seven of the ten sets went to three in the game between Liverpool Jewish and Vagabonds. Tony Cohen defeated Ted Barnes 3-21; 21-15; 21-17. What happened in the first game? Vagabonds were the eventual winners 8-2.

Cadwa defeated Crawfords 'A' 7-3. John Henshaw beat R. Rohrer 13-21; 21-16; 21-19 and R. Conley 21-15; 25-23. A month later Cadwa lost 7-3 to Liverpool Jewish a complete reversal of form. Ian Fletcher won two for Cadwa. Tony Cohen and Dave Money two each for Jewish.

As I forecast in my notes Maghull have improved with the signing of Alan Edwards and must be near the top of the table. Andy Howarth continues to attack steadily or is it defend? and with Dick Watson they pick up sets regularly.

Crawfords 'B' have managed two draws against Crawfords 'D' and Liverpool Jewish. Ken Jones winning two in each match.

BRIAN CUNNINGHAM

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Beauclair	19	19	0	0	153
Trinity 'B'	17	15	1	1	148
Cadwa	17	12	3	2	118
Eng. Elec. 'C' ...	19	10	6	3	110
Orrell	19	9	8	2	99
Police 'B'	18	7	8	3	85
Old Swan 'A'	18	5	11	2	75
Bath St. 'B'	14	6	5	3	72
Norris Green	17	6	8	3	70
Crawfords 'C'	17	7	7	3	69
Colonsay 'C'	19	2	16	1	58
Hilltop	19	2	14	3	57
Waterloo Pk 'A' ...	17	1	15	1	49

At the time of writing Beauclair have 153 points from 19 games and Trinity have 148 points from 17 games **AND THAT'S OFFICIAL!!** So Mr. Hankin please note. Any discrepancy that has occurred with any teams records it is up to Club Secretaries to

contact the fixture secretary. Barring any major disasters all my predictions should be fulfilled. Beauclair and Trinity look all set for Division 2 and Colonsay for Division 4. It should also be noted that Trinity and Beauclair do battle in the final of the Hyde Cup, known to us all as **OUR CUP!!** 3A only take part to make the numbers up! So congratulations to both teams. I'll plump for Beauclair—but after a replay.

Old Swan have pulled clear of any imminent danger with some useful results notably 4-6 Norris Green; 4-6 Bath Street; 8-2 Waterloo Park and a very good 3-7 Beauclair, L. Griffin and J. Fairclough winning most of the sets. Norris Green also had a good run being beaten only once in January by Orrell 7-3, victories over Colonsay 8-2; Waterloo Park 6-4 and a 5-5 draw with Police has seemingly secured their position in this Division for another season. Allen Robinson, Ashcroft, Speed, and Jones being the nucleus of their side. While I remember—thanks to Norris Green in postponing league game with Hilltop—very much appreciated. I cannot keep up with some of Colonsay's line-ups, names such as V. Kilty, P. Rutherford, A. Guy, R. Johnson, D. Brookfield are now appearing, Brian Leeson and Bill Jones have disappeared.

Police 'B' have managed to break all records by fielding the **same** team on seven successive occasions, Ferguson, Rimmer, Wright and Dyson first doubles 2/3, second doubles 1/4—excellent, 1/4 being the most successful pair.

As far as I know, the last Digest was edited, printed and distributed in 16 days, my notes being the last to arrive, and so obviously the most up-to-date. The same will happen again this issue, as I only received 5 days notice this issue. (Providing the Editor, Printers, etc., do as well as the last one) could be in your club by the 12th March which means that the League Table is only 1 or maybe 2 matches behind. I personally think this is superb, considering the amount of work put in by certain people is astronomical and to receive a magazine with so much news, at such little cost to the individual surely overshadows the fact that the news is that little bit stale.

P.S. John Hankin — have temporarily mislaid your letter, will endeavour to have it published in the final issue.

ROB LOCK

DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Rafters 'C'	15	13	1	1	112
Maghull 'A'	18	12	6	0	110
Eng. Elec. 'D'	16	9	7	0	91
Bedford House	14	8	4	2	84
York House	12	9	3	0	74
Eng. Elec. 'F'	15	6	8	1	63
University	14	6	7	1	63
Bath St. 'D'	12	4	8	0	52
Police 'C'	13	3	10	0	46
Orrell 'B'	13	2	9	2	40
Cadwa 'A'	11	1	9	1	35

Well, it had to happen! Despite my statement in the first issue, Orrell 'B' have found it necessary to claim a walk over from York House. I do not intend to go into the argument about whether this action was justified, but I will make the observation that the game was due to be played on New Year's day. While I am having a go, please could Keith Lightfoot let me know why none of his team mates accompanied him when he visited Rafters. As it was, Keith seemed to suffer from loneliness, and lost both his singles. If the University had fielded their strongest team, they could have pushed the top team all the way. A glance at the league tables will show the implications of these two results, a sad reflection on what has otherwise been a well contested and fairly evenly matched division.

The Forrest Cup final will be between York House and University. Tragedy struck Electric D before their semi-final with University, as Ken Black had to leave town due to a family bereavement (and despite the presence of Jack Lambert) they collapsed 9-1 — Albi Parker winning the consolation set. York House beat Knotty Ash 7-3 in the other semi-final.

In the league Rafters look a good bet to become champions, this is due in part to the inconsistency of their rivals. They showed their ability however, when winning 6-4 at York House (Smith 2) and drawing 5-5 at Bedford House (Owens and Sturgess

2 each). Their strength in both these games was in their double combination Graves/Kelly and O'Keefe/Hughes, each of whom have only lost one set according to cards available. Talking of match cards please could you make sure your match record is filled in correctly before sending them in, it makes writing these notes much easier (or is your love for me outweighed by your hate of Eddie Cameron).

Maghulls fortunes have declined a little of late, losing 7-3 and 8-2 at Bedford and York House respectively. They did gain a good 6-4 win over Electric D however (Draper 2). Betty Black had an excellent 21/16, 21/18 success over Arthur Wishart of York House, in Electric 'F's' 7-3 defeat. The main interest now seems to revolve around who can take runners-up spot, by the time you get this issue the position may be more clear than it is to me at the moment.

Finally, I have had a request to put forward an appeal, to give more information regarding any proposed coaching scheme for our younger players. There have been one or two vague statements regarding this recently, but most of us are still in the dark. I am sure we would all like the position clarified.

KEN BRADY

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Trinity 'C'	17	15	2	0	130
Knotty Ash	17	14	3	0	125
Eng. Elec. 'E'	16	11	5	0	102
Giro	17	10	7	0	101
Beauclair 'A'	13	12	1	0	97
Liv. Jewish 'A'	16	8	8	0	85
Woolton	16	8	7	1	78
Cadwa 'C'	16	7	9	0	71
Knotty Ash 'A'	17	3	13	1	47
Police 'D'	16	1	15	0	36
St. Hugh's	13	1	12	0	31
Orrell 'A'	11	2	9	0	25

The big question now is whether or not Beauclair 'A' are going to last the pace now that Knotty Ash and Trinity 'C' are pulling out all the stops, not only to gain promotion but to win the league outright. Beauclair have been beaten at last by Knotty Ash who also put them out of the Cup, and it was the superior strength in depth of the Knotty Ash team

which swung the match. Only W. Leeming (2) and W. Holmes (1) winning at singles for Beauclair and with one doubles victory by Leeming and Harry Holmes, they went down 4-6. For Knotty Ash — John Ainsworth, Paul Reed-Clayton and Kevin Wright won a singles apiece with Alan Hall winning two and teaming up with Kevin Wright to clinch the match with a good doubles win. For Knotty Ash — Alan Hall has over 90% with the rest of the team over 70%. No other team can match these individual performances although W. Leeming has 1 defeat. Other high averages include W. Holmes, T. Downing, P. Grugel, S. Smith, John Nelson, D. Sultman, Alan Nolan and Rob Napier.

Best doubles partnership is T. Downing and Wilson of Trinity — other pairs who win consistently are — Nolan and Nelson of Giro, Leeming and H. Holmes and L. Taylor and G. Goldring of Jewish. Top doubles player from English Electric is Colin Fyles who despite having had 5 different partners has only lost 3.

Have you played against E. Dorfman of Jewish yet? He doesn't hit the ball very hard — nor does he chop it viciously — he has been playing competitively for over 30 years — but it's hell trying to beat him as many "Star" players have found out.

Cadwa have recently had 3 good victories — 8-2 over Woolton and Orrell and 6-4 over Giro, J. Power winning 6 out of 6 — Carol Flood and M. Power winning 4. Cadwa are now clear of the relegation battle where Orrell, Police, Knotty Ash 'A' and St. Hughs are struggling.

Orrell are picking themselves up now and their better results have been when G. Brint has played. Gerry had over 60% last season at No. 1. My team were pleased to see the return from retirement of Roy Stevenson, they queue up to play him — generally losing to him but what enjoyable games they are!

Vin Hall has strengthened the Knotty Ash 'A' side and he generally wins one whoever they play.

The Police have used 10 or 11 different players but have still only won one match. It will be a pity if St. Hughs drop out at the end of the

season, they are having trouble to raise a team and have yet to win a match. Their No. 1 G. McAlle is playing very well — I only hope he is not lost to the game next season.

Woolton are having a good season they should finish in 7th place they don't seem to play so well away from home — possibly it's their opponents who don't play so well at the "Club".

English Electric have brought out of an 11-year retirement — George Bradley ex-Victoria Park who replaces Dave Vicary — a cartilage victim — here's to a speedy recovery Dave.

4B have now lost interest in the Forrest Cup with Knotty Ash losing to York House in the semi-final 7-3. York House got off to a fine start and were leading 4-0; Knotty Ash won both doubles and John Ainsworth won a singles, York House played two players who seem to play only in the important games. Although we were very impressed with the table tennis ability of York House I'm afraid we were rather disappointed with their attitude and gamesmanship, but we wish them luck in the final against University who defeated English Electric 'D' (4A) in the other semi-final.

Finally, my tip for promotion — Knotty Ash and Trinity 'C' just pipping Beauclair 'A'.

COLIN PRATT

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
St. John	18	14	1	3	146
Aigburth PM	18	14	2	2	130
Vagabonds 'A'	18	13	3	2	128
Woolton 'A'	15	10	3	2	92
Knotty Ash 'B'	17	6	7	4	82
Barker & Dobson	15	7	6	2	70
Cross Inter	13	5	6	2	70
Blundellsands	16	5	11	0	68
Trinity 'D'	15	5	9	5	60
Rafters 'D'	18	2	14	2	43
Maghull 'C'	16	1	10	5	41
Tuebrook	15	2	12	1	40

Harding — Record Expunged

St. John's are still pulling clear but a terrific battle is hotting up for second place with only one point separating Vagabonds and APH Linnets at the time of writing. APH

Linnets being in the lead after 6-4 win against Vagabonds. Ray Gavin and Wally Sherburn won both their singles for APH in this match whilst Dave Rooney won all his three games for Vagabonds.

Woolton B.C. seem to have lost their chance of challenging the top three after 8-2 defeat by API Linnets and giving away a 10-0 walk-over away to Blundellsands.

The St. John's v. Vagabonds match was a tremendously exciting affair which I was privileged to watch. The doubles typify this game, Gordon Crompton and John McLoughlin losing to Ray Smith and Dave Rooney 20-22, 21-13, 19-21; and Alan Gillespie and Paul McLoughlin beating Les Harper and Brian Phillips 14-21, 21-14, 21-18.

Tuebrook seem to be improving greatly judging by their match against St. John's when they became one of the few teams to take four sets off the leaders. Terry Delea was their star in this match with three game wins over Gordon Crompton and Alan Gillespie, incidentally, I must apologise to Alan for missing him from the list of top averages in my last notes when he had 100%, apart from a defeat by Frank Bradley (Goodlass Wall now resigned).

Ray Gavin was the first player from our current crop to lower his colours in the match versus API Linnets.

We are now left with no hundred-per-centers in the division as Stan Prince (Blundellsands) lost his against M. Hulme (Trinity) 21-14 in the third. Hulme has since lost 7-21, 11-21 to Marge Lambert of Barker and Dobson, which as far as I can see is his only defeat so far although he does not play very regularly.

Rafters must have the youngest average age in the whole league at present and I'm sure the experience will stand them in good stead for next season. A special mention here for Susan Smith a chirpy youngster in the Brenda Williams mould who, on the evidence of a superb win over the experienced George Morgan (APH Linnets) can go a long way in the game. This was Rafters only win in this game although young John Kelly put up an excellent perform-

ance in taking Ray Gavin to three games.

Other solo winners: Ken Ray (Knotty Ash) 21-11, 21-11 versus Arthur Brownlow (Vagabonds); Tony Rice (Tuebrook) 21-16, 21-17 versus Ray Smith (Vagabonds); Fred O'Sullivan (Barker & Dobson) 21-18, 21-13 versus Barry Meyer (APH Linnets); John Ashburner (Cross Inter.) 2 wins against Ray Gavin and Barry Morgan.

Ken Stevens is turning in some fine performances for Maghull. none better than a 21-11, 23-21 win over Marge Lambert.

One final point, I'm sure the fixtures secretary would be pleased if Rafters would fill in their record at the bottom of their card — it would also help me.

BARRY MEYER

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Palmerston 'A' ...	18	17	0	1	163
Panto	15	11	2	2	114
Bath St. 'E'	18	11	6	1	102
Vagabonds 'B'	16	10	4	2	99
Colonsay 'D'	18	9	6	3	93
Knotty Ash 'C' ...	18	7	7	3	88
Maghull 'B'	17	7	6	4	84
Lancs. Police	16	5	10	1	70
Tuebrook 'A'	15	4	11	0	51
Eng. Elec. 'G' ...	15	1	12	2	48
Trinity 'E'	15	2	12	1	41
Blundellsands 'A' ...	14	1	12	1	29

York House 'A' — Expunged

Quite honestly I did not think there was a team capable of holding Mossley Hill to a draw, but the Post Office team proved me wrong, Hayes led the assault with three wins assisted by Fuller in the doubles who with Morgan also won a singles. Hudson and Davies winning two apiece for Mossley Hill. With what looked a weaker team on paper Mossley Hill went to Post Office a couple of weeks later and won 7-3, thanks mainly to a reversal of form by Alexander — losing two at home and winning two away, although his 20-22, 22-20, 21-19 with Luxon was close to say the least.

The two young teams which looked so promising at the beginning of the season appear to be going different

ways, Colonsay 'D' are coming on great guns, their only reverse in the last session was against Mossley Hill or Palmerston when an up and coming star Rutherford won the one, he had a tough fight however against Connor of English Electric, who is not exactly an old man winning 24-22 in the third, Connor won his other game, which was Electrics only score.

On the other hand York House 'A' appear to be in more than precarious position judging by the score cards received although I have had no official notice regarding their fate.

Bath Street have a mixed grill with two 10-0, a 1-9 and a draw against Knotty Ash, Miles win over Pownall 19-21, 21-14, 21-16, giving him a double was pretty powerful medicine. With a couple of draws against Knotty Ash and Trinity Maghull look a good bet for the coupon, Adams R. opening up with a great double, Pownall won his usual two and Wainwright scored a good double for the Trinity. In the Trinity—Knotty Ash

clash Lynda Myham swung the game in the latter's favour with two good wins. To end the saga Tuebrook then took 'em both on losing to Knotty Ash 4-6 (seven games going to three) Ellison returning two of the four and beating Trinity 7-3 thanks to 5 games from Leslie and Barrington.

Lancashire Police (Holt 2) did well to hold a strong Bath Street team to 6-4, Bath Street teams certainly vary in strength. Vagabonds too seem to rarely have their strongest team out, Pritchard (Bath Street) saved his side from a whitewash against Vagabonds as did Laycock of Blundellsands against Maghull, Barrington (Tuebrook) winning his two against the same team.

Hudson of Mossley Hill is still your 100% man to chase. Our division really dominated the Stamp Cup, Mossley Hill beating Bath Street 8-2 and Post Office beating Vagabonds 8-2 the expedite might have to be called at the final — on tactical talks ! ! ? ?

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Letters to the Editor

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19.2.73

Dear Jack,

Thank you for continuing to send me copies of the "Digest". Although it is now 16 years since I left Merseyside some of the names are still familiar; indeed, the subject matter in the "Digest" changes very little. The same is true of your problems in promoting the game! ?

With best wishes for the future,

Yours sincerely,

Don Foulis.

P.S. Small cheque enclosed.

A short but welcome letter from Don Foulis one of our Vice-Presidents, ex-Chairman and many times English International.—Ed.

Wavertree Labour T.T.C.

Dear Sir,

In reply to the letter from Barry Meyer re. my comments in the first issue. Whilst I give him every credit for all his efforts I note that the decision to change their name did not come to light until after the "Digest" was distributed.

Being a modest and unassuming chap — my own opinion — I will leave our readers to draw their own conclusions.

Yours faithfully,

K. Armson.

71 Abbotsford Road,
Norris Green,
Liverpool.

Dear Sir,

We are both girls who are aged 16 and very interested to play in any table tennis club in the Liverpool League, which needs players. We joined the Y.M.C.A. but it is impossible for us to play for it as its lowest team is in Division 3A and this standard is just a little too high for us, they also have sufficient players good enough to play for that team if they need them. We would be very glad if you could tell us of any club which might need players such as ourselves.

Yours sincerely,

P. Hudson and G. Cross.

The immediate problem of the girls has been solved. I publish this letter as I feel this is part of our overall problem. Limited chances and teaching for new players and no coaching for good or interested players outside the city teams.—Ed.

Dear Jack,

I thought the "Ladies" was very interesting. So I sorted out and enclose a photograph from Crawford's magazine showing Barbara Horsley (Now Mrs Hayton), Nora Ford (nec Norrish), Joyce Horsley (Now Mrs. Barton) and Muriel Cox. Nora made a comeback for that season only and although we tried to persuade her to play again, she sadly declined.

Amy Bell a friend of mine and obviously a well known character in the table tennis world, became a member of the Linnets club sometime after the three stalwarts Lil Wynne, Millie Harris, and Monica O'Donnell. I just felt I must mention these three names because they have been playing for so long and are never mentioned in any of the articles. All three were originally members of Osterley Tennis and Table Tennis club and together with Rita Trautman who married Basil Townsend — and Peter Barton (who married me !) were some of the other members of that club. The Osterley club was disbanded in 1956 and houses were built on the site in Eilerslie Road, Tuebrook. It was then that Lil, Millie and Monica joined Linnets. Some years later with Amy they left and started playing at Crawford's.

For myself I started playing at Cadwa in 1952, and under the guidance of Ivy Crafter was part of the second team, as mentioned in your article there were two full divisions in the middle fifties. When I started working at Crawford's, Tom Edge, now a Vice-President, asked me to assist him in starting a table tennis section. I then and still do play for Crawford's where at the moment the future looks rather bleak and we are all just waiting for news from Les Evans the secretary.

I know you say in the "Ladies" that many girls will have been missed and I can appreciate this. Quite often after reading the Digest I want to answer your cries for more support by writing but to actually get down to the task of writing a letter is much easier said than done. However, the thought of at least three of the League's players not being recognised ever prompted me to do something positive. I hope that all this has been of interest to you and it may come in useful to you sometime in the future. By the way, I agree that Maureen King was quite a character but one couldn't help but like her.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Digest team for its efforts and time spent on producing an interesting magazine. Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

Joyce Barton.

Joyce suggested that this be more of a conversation piece than a letter to the Digest, but I feel it is a conversation that we should all take part in, particularly the ladies. She told me about an exciting table tennis party she held at her house — she might tell you sometime ! ! ? Thank you Joyce for your kind remarks.—Ed.

The Outside World

The E.T.T.A. Sales Office is at 107 Dairy Lane, Houghton-le-Spring, Co. Durham.

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Victor Barna left £35.460 nett.

European Rankings: 1. S. Bengtsson (Sweden); 2. I. Jonyer (Yugoslavia); 3. K. Johansson (Sweden); 13. D. Neale (England).

Ladies: 1. Z. Rudnova (Russia); 2. B. Kishazi (Hungary); 3. J. Magos (Hungary); 11. J. Hammersley (England).

World Rankings: 1. Bengtsson (Sweden); 2. Hasegawa (Japan); 3. Jonyer (Yugoslavia); 24. Neale.

Ladies: 1. Lin Hui Ching (China); 2. Cheng Min Chih (China); 3. Rudnova (Russia); 6. Wally Allanson (English Electric).

Hawker Siddeley Aviation placed an aircraft at the disposal of The Peoples Republic of China Table Tennis Team when they were here recently. Siddeley's have just received a 68 million pound plus order for aircraft from China ! ?

Chester Barnes has just written another book entitled "Modern Table Tennis Tactics". Copies are available from the E.T.T.A. Sales office. £2.15 including post.

The World Championships this year will take place at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, April 10th to 16th. Anyone for the flight?

Ormesby celebrated winning the European Cup for the first time at the Ladle Hotel, Middlesbrough. (They beat English Electric 5-2 in the English Club Trophy). They presented a trophy for the winners of the English Clubs competition and of course were immediately presented with it.

The Table Tennis News is running a competition for the best league magazine or bulletin — it will be interesting to know our rating ! ?

Latest England rankings show our Tony Clayton moving up a couple of spots — 1. Trevor Taylor; 2. Denis Neale; 3. Tony Clayton; 6. Mike Johns. Ladies: 1. Jill Hammersley; 2. Karenza Mathews; 3. Lesley Radford; 9. Susan Lisle; 10. Judy Heaps.

Chester Barnes returned to the scene with three wins, one a doubles, when Essex beat Kent 7-2.

"Table Tennis Tips" — a new film has been produced by Dunlop's with the help of the E.T.T.A. It is in colour and runs for 15 minutes on 16mm., features some of our top stars and is available free of charge from the Dunlop Film Library, 269 Kingston Road, Merton Park, London S.W.19 3MR.

Ormesby were winning 3-1 in defence of their European Club title against Vejesnik of Yugoslavia, Neale and Taylor winning the 3 games, Jarvis was number 3.

Unfortunately, that was all they could manage in this tough semi-final and they went down 5-3. Ormesby had previously beaten Pleven of Bulgaria 5-0.

P.S. The Wally Allanson entry should read — 6 in Lancs. Gents, of course ! !

J.A.L.

Table Edges

It cannot be printed in YOUR magazine unless I know about it.

Tony Clayton led the British University team in the recent World Student Championship at Hanover.

Roy Jones (Bath Street) recently had an unfortunate accident losing a finger and a half on his LEFT hand. We are now pleased to report that he is recovering nicely and will be seen in action again soon with his superb forehand (RIGHT HAND).

In 1952 Wavertree Labour were in South Region Division 2 (Sec. A, Hambleton) Liverpool Y.M.C.A. were in Division 4 — Sec. Jack Taylor now playing for Post Office, and English Electric were in Division 5 (Sec. — ???). How the old place has changed.

Think about this one — Japanese statisticians reckon at top level if a point is decided on service and return over 90% of these points are won by the server, if a rally goes to 3 or 4 strikes the server wins 80% — 5 and 6 strikes the server wins 70%. It is not until 7 or 8 hits that the chances are equal, if by any chance a rally goes to 9 or 10 the server is down to a 40% chance. The moral is, get yourself a dirty, sneaky, obnoxious serve (But don't finger spin).

Let's hope Crawford's and Les Evans pull something out of the bag before next season to help the club survive. Not only for their own boys and girls but for the benefit of the league in general.

Sorry Linacre but the Chatham Dockyard team have played together for 25 years. Jim Lewis their Captain states — "We have *never* needed a reserve".

Girls please note — there must be something in the air at English Electric now Gordon Birch and Lyn have joined in wedded bliss— congratulations and all the very best.

Ted Mandaluff (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.) is now in line for an Honorary Degree at Liverpool University. Tony Clayton is pressing his claim through the Students Union for services rendered to wooden bats. As an alternative he suggests all wooden bats be rendered to sawdust.

In 1933 Liverpool lost in the FINAL of the Wilmot Cup 5-2 to South London, Liverpool was then a 'County'.

University can only survive on toleration from other clubs and a top class secretary. They appear to have both of these this season, Keith Lightfoot of Chelmsford is their five star Sec.

We are sorry to hear that Anna Cohen (Liverpool Jewish) has not been in the best of health lately. Although she misses her horse riding more than her table tennis, we still say get well soon Anna, good and enthusiastic secretaries are hard to come by.

In 1938 a bat cost 3/-, in 1950 9/-, in 1960 14/-. In January a D13 RUBBER cost 75p, it now costs £1.37½ !

I reckon Rafters are our oldest club followed closely by English Electric and College of Technology. The third string Linacre, Waterloo Park and are Bohemians still eligible? By oldest I refer to the longest continuous serving members of the league.

MARCH 31st — Closing date for your closed entry — it is worth entering even if you don't play! ? A chat in the Tuck Shop, a char and wad not to mention the super sandwiches by our charming squad of ladies makes a visit well worth while.

continued on next page

Ugh — kapow ! ! ! Bang (((wham))) Yowee ? ? Pow — Zoom not to mention Buzzzz — Superman ? No. A Dave Allen Joke — No — an intro to Monty Python ? No sir — these are the head noises of a player's reaction to the ball hitting the table, net, or floor when he was forced to play on New Year's Day. Come on cads play the game, you can do better than that, surely you could miss that one day off your fixture list.

I hear one of our local papers has heard about table tennis and we may get a little publicity here, more news later, and how will it affect the Digest ?

Ken Brady (Bedford House) queries coaching. I answer from my knowledge of the situation. John O'Sullivan (Colonsay) a two star E.T.T.A. Coach runs an official coaching session for Liverpool team members. The only other coaching sessions I know of are private ones, one is a closed shop (Club) for beginners, one accepts established players and improves on them, the other two are semi-open but limited. ANY OTHER OFFERS ?

UMPIRES NOTE

While there is no rule being broken in the popular conception (particularly in lower divisions) that in doubles, on winning the toss 'A' decides to serve, and 'B' decides to receive — then 'B' must serve and 'A' receive in the second game and if a third game is played 'A' to 'B' again as in the first game — the receivers changing at ten. This is no doubt a convenient method to players and umpires but the fact is that the servers may decide on who is to serve at the start of each game and the receivers must alter accordingly and of course at ten in the third the receivers must change over. RULE 13 specifically states: "In doubles, the pair who have the right to serve the first five services in any game shall decide which partner shall do so".

Incidentally, congratulations are due to Brian Leeson who is our only National Umpire having recently been to Birmingham to "Pass Out". I believe we only have three in Lancashire. While I will be asking him to clarify other contentious points of umpiring he is also interested in any unusual problems that may crop up.

J.A.L.

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