

# Table Tennis Digest

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Number 3



*Official Magazine*

OF THE

**LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

# TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

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## *Editorial*

In nearly all organised sport the basic motive is competition. In all our cup competitions, from the Readman to the Stamp, from round one to the finals—every team pulls out all the stops and the competitive spirit is really terrific.

League warfare, I admit, has not the same edge, but basically the will to win and field top teams still applies with a few exceptions who have genuine difficulties with players. The one division that deteriorates year after year—is—our pride and joy, our pies be resistance—our **FIRST DIVISION**.

What on earth is happening here? First of all it must be said that individual battles leave nothing to be desired in their effort and endeavour. But team-wise we have a very different story. In this division, which should be a shining example to the rest, two and three-man teams are played far too often, two, three and four reserves are commonplace, teams field mediocre to atrocious sides all season and when relegation looms the old faithfuls come along and pull the team out of the mire. Fair enough you might say—but the same procedure takes place the following season—just to keep them in Division 1 and then we invariably get the end-of-the-season "funny" results. All these things are tending to make our division one into a competitive farce.

The main reason, I suppose, is that so many of our top players are committed, and more important, give preference to other local leagues. One player I hear is signed for five. Players are selected for city and county squads, etc., and cannot play. I am good enough, so if I don't play this week they can't drop me—a lack of dedicated interest and spirit—and, of course, the legit excuses like night school, etc.

With their regular team Y.M.C.A. could have been crowned champs last November—but even they, with no other contenders for the title, have fallen in the reservitis disease.

I thought at one time that a 3-a-side premier division would be the answer to all our problems but I cannot see it answering the problem under review, although it would improve standards if all our best players played each other all the time. Personally, I would be against the league going to 3-a-side as room usage, increased subs and less players playing could come into it. However, that is a discussion for another day.

The improvement of competition in division one is quite a problem. I don't know the answer—do you?

# LOCALS ABROAD

The Men's 'A' team need only a draw with Nelson 'A' on March 19th to clinch the Division 4 title. After a lapse of 10 years English Electric 'A' No. 1, Rod McPherson, returned to representative competition when playing against Lancaster and Morecambe 'A', and accompanied by Clive Strettle and Tony O'Connor, they defeated the county town 9-1. This same trio also ended the title hopes of Salford 'A' by the same score.

With John McNee injured and John Marshall unavailable, first team debuts were made by Clive Strettle and Tony O'Connor, in the home fixture with Preston. The visitors were fortunate to find Paul Tsang still feeling the after-effects of 'flu. The team of Ian Smith, Tony Rigby and Allan Whittle being well content with a 6 sets to 4 victory.

Tony O'Connor impressed with good wins over Allan Whittle and then showed his fighting qualities when coming from behind in the third to beat Tony Rigby.

The 'A' team combination still unbeaten of Strettle and O'Connor scored a good doubles win over Smith and Rigby when 14-9 in the last two games and winning 14 and 14. Our strongest first team put up a great show at Stockport on March 4, when they defeated Hampson, Schofield and Hulme by 8 sets to 2. Star man was Paul Tsang, who beat all three, and complemented by McNee and Marshall, who both beat Schofield and Hulme. Derek Schofield said he had never lost all three singles in a league match before.

The final match of the season should be exciting, with Hyde providing two England-ranked players in No. 11 John Hilton and No. 14 Nigel Eckersley. Our team of Julie Black, Julie Turner and Marie Gaul scored a fine 7 sets to 3 victory over Stockport, led by Doreen Schofield.

The 6 sets to 4 result in Preston's favour was the first defeat for over 7 years by a team other than Manchester, in Lancashire and Cheshire League play. This was followed up by an easy 9 sets to 1 win over Wirral, with Julie Turner replacing Marie Gaul.

For their final match of the season the team has been deprived of the services of Brenda, Julie Black and Julie Turner, who are all playing for the County on March 13. Our opponents on that day are Bury, who wouldn't agree to a change of match date. Our team on that day will be: Barbara, Marie and Paula Breithaupt, who will be making her first team debut.

The Junior boys, in their first match for three months, had a good 10-0 victory over Stockport. However, for the match at home to Oldham they were without Clive Strettle and Tony O'Connor, who were at the Lancashire Open. Their replacements certainly made an impact and 16-years-old Phil Thomson, of English Electric, could feel pleased with himself in his first City match when he won his three singles events and along with clubmate Graeme Black, took the doubles.

Fourteen-years-old Mark Monaghan, of Kirkby Sports, also recorded a successful City debut, when after nervously losing his first set, he crushed the visitors' No. 1 21-6, 21-17, and followed by beating the No. 2 21-15, 21-11. With Graeme unexpectedly losing the last set to the visitors' No. 1, the final score of 8 sets to 2 was quite impressive. For the match with Bury, Phil Thomson retained his place, with Clive being on County duty. At the half-way stage our lads trailed by 3 sets to 2, but with Tony gaining a maximum three singles sets, and also the doubles with Graeme, we clinched it by 6 sets to 4. Wilmott Cup—Round 2, at Leeds, was very disappointing, our team of McNee, Marshall and Tsang going down 5 sets to 1!

The Ladies' team of Julie Black, Julie Turner and Marie Gaul, with

Alex Gould driving, made the long trip to Leicester, for Round 2 of the Rose Bowl. They gained only in experience when Karen Rogers and Anita Stevenson saw the home side to an 8-1 win, with Julie Black being our lone winner.

Tony O'Connor (Colonsay) has leaped to Number 3 in the national cadet rankings.

In the club championship Liverpool Y.M.C.A. beat Bury Champs—Greenwood and Business Houses Champs, Otis, and lost to Little Lever, Eolton, 5-1, possibly through not using Paul Tsang to the best advantage.

John McNee (Rafters) our "och aye" bloke from Birkenhead, is now Scotland's Number 2. John sent me the finest script I have ever received on the West German Open Championships, in which he competed. It is such excellent stuff I must use it in some way.

Norman Challoner reports a great display by Mark Monaghan (Kirkby Sports) and Graeme Black (English Electric) in the L.B.A. 14-16 Final, Graeme winning 21-15, 23-21. They were both congratulated on their turnout and sportsmanship.

#### **STOP PRESS:**

A disappointing Lancashire display saw them lose 1-9 to Warwickshire, and a 2nd division spell is now on for the County side. There were some good points about this match. IT WAS HELD IN LIVERPOOL. We saw England's Number 1 (where were all our young players and others?). Conditions at the Colonsay Club, provided by De La Salle School, were superb. Mr. Arthur Upton, the chairman of the Lancashire and Cheshire T.T.A., expressed his thanks, and rightly so, for a magnificent lay-out for the game, mainly due to Brother Alban for his co-operation and help and to the charming ladies of the P.T.A., who laid on an excellent buffet and looked after everyone so well.

DON DAVIES/J.A.L.

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# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

15 Myrtle Grove  
Waterloo.

Dear Editor,

Judging by the February Edition of the "Digest" it seems to me that Bath Street Club took the brunt of a few "nets" and "edges".

Rowland Craddock criticises 1st team captain, Billy Clayton, for abiding by the rules, Eric Hardman, in his notes, delivers a "non too well concealed" sidespin attack against the same team for not "playing the game", i.e., order of play.

I'm sorry, Rowland, but your letter did leave one question unanswered. Knowing that you would be arriving at Bath St. late (at 8-25 p.m. by your reckoning) did you or Wally Sill phone Billy Clayton to indicate such possibility? Don't forget that your games could have been claimed at 8 p.m. but that would have been "playing by the book" wouldn't it? It takes two to break the rules—it seems!

Eric Hardman's suggestion of points for fair play is such a brilliant suggestion, I'm surprised I didn't think of it myself. Nevertheless, I've come up with an even better idea. My scheme would allow bonus points to be awarded to clubs depending on the air temperature found at respective playing quarters. Sorry Trinity, but no points I'm afraid!

All joking aside, I would like to add that this is my first season in the Liverpool and District League (Bath St. 'G', Division 5a) and I've enjoyed every minute of it, apart from not getting a mention in the "Digest" after beating Muriel Cox, of Kirkby.

Rowland Craddock—I must remember that name—I might be playing in the 3rd Division next year . . .

Regards,

PETER MERCER,  
Bath Street T.T.C.

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# TABLE EDGES

Jo Green has left her cosy little cafe in Lark Lane and now resides at Flat 1, 26 Guernsey Road, Green Lane, Liverpool 13. Jo is keeping reasonably well. With Jo and Jim's (Green) in residence, Jo's Cafe in Lark Lane became more of a table tennis shrine than a cafe—tales were told, information and advice given, players were coached and the place just oozed with table tennis facts. One of our earlier fanatics, Doc Rumjahn, might have diagnosed a bad case of table tennisitis.

As usual, a nice letter, donation and suggestion from Vice-President Don Foulis. He suggests a look back of two years in the "Digest". I had in mind a "Do you remember corner", which is something similar—Norman Challoner (Colonsay) starts the ball rolling. L.B.A. finals 24 years ago Mike Truman (Trinity) beat Fraser Farquharson (Wav. Labour) in the senior final. Eddie Clein (Eng. Electric) beat Freddie Cuff (Eng. Electric and Anfield) in the juniors. Mike beat young Norman Challoner in the semis. Freddie died tragically some years later.

Tremendous publicity has been given to the Kirkby Ski Slope, but very little to the adjoining magnificent sports complex and sports stadium. The height of the main arena could be a snag for lighting, but this and the concert room would be worth looking at for tournaments, cafeteria and lounge bar on the site—it sounds ideal for the Merseyside—but, of course, there is no Merseyside this year!?

Liverpool's great win over Manchester has already been mentioned elsewhere. But what a great opportunity this was to see Lancashire's leading players at their competitive best, and so many varying styles on view, McNee and Bowen terrific modern stuff, John Marshall aggressively looping the loop, pen-holder Paul Tsang, Kevin Forshaw—past his brilliant best—but a joy to watch and listen to, an ideal player for any up-and-coming star to model themselves on in every way, but the only youngsters there were McKim, Leeson, O'Sullivan, Lambert and Clewitt!!

Surely Brian Leeson made the point on expedite quite clear. The expedite rule is as much a part of the game as a 9" x 5' table or 21-up. It is there all the time and expedite must be called after one game has taken 15 minutes. If it is the first game the remaining game or games in that set will be played to expedite. This MAY stop another near free-for-all!

Gird your loins you closed singles wallahs — the King may not be there!!!

John Hankin (Trinity) and a couple of his gang at the club, think a Christmas and End of Season "Digest" would be sufficient. What do you think?

Don Davis (Rafters) suggests 5 "Digests"!

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1957	—	TED RUMJAHN	KAY CASSELMAN
1958	—	ARTHUR TAYLOR	MOYA JONES
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1960	—	ARTHUR TAYLOR	MOYA JONES
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## Divisional Notes

	DIVISION 1				Pts
	P	W	L	D	
L'pool YMCA ..	20	18	0	2	172
Rafters .....	20	16	3	1	141
Eng. Electric ..	20	13	4	3	129
Palmerston ....	19	11	5	3	113
Wav. Labour ..	19	11	5	3	104
Trinity .....	18	7	6	5	91
Eng. Elec. 'A' ..	21	6	10	5	90
Bath St. 'A' .....	20	6	9	4	84
Trinity 'A' .....	19	5	9	5	84
Bath St. ....	20	4	12	4	78
Rafters 'A' .....	21	2	15	4	71
Wav. Lab. 'A' ..	19	3	12	3	62
Colonsay .....	18	4	14	0	54

The Readman Cup semi-finalists are Y.M.C.A., Eng. Elec. and Eng. Elec. 'A' and Rafters 'A'. Wav. Lab. 'A', fighting to avoid relegation, fought hard to stay in the cup. Eddie Moran beat Jim Lynch 21-15, 30-32, 21-17. McPherson and Pheysey lost to Fennah and Gilmour 20-22, 21-19, 22-24 and Lynch and Philips beat Moran and Gilmour 21-15, 22-20. Dave Butterworth and Alan Reid were brought into Bath Street's first team after Bath St. 'A's' elimination from the cup, days earlier. They gave Bath St. a 3-1 lead. Rafters 'A' won 6-4, the other singles coming from Butterworth. For Rafters 'A', Alan Timewell won his singles, beating France and Moran. With Ronnie Rumjahn he won the doubles, Ferguson and Crafter a singles each and their doubles.

The tie of the round, however, was Rafters v Y.M.C.A. McNee and Marshall won all their games in the first leg but Williams and Davey failed. In the replay Rafters without McNee, lost 3-7. On this occasion Williams beat both Turtle and Lee and Marshall also beat Lee. A fine win here for George Smith in beating John Marshall 16-21, 21-19, 21-19. Bath St. seem to be pulling themselves clear of the drop partly due to Dave Butterworth doing a good job at No. 1 for them and his own team, Bath St. 'A'. Against Colonsay, Bath St. won 7-3, Tony O'Connor beat Franco and Butterworth. Bath St.'s ever-present, Mike Moran, and Chris Coogan (56%) took five of Bath St.'s seven. In the Bath St. derby, Butterworth (50%) starred, winning two. He is Bath St.'s top player, playing at No. 1 each week.

Chris Coogan has 56% but plays most of his games at four. Alex Gould had a fine win over Chris Coogan 21-12 in the 3rd and gave the "A" a creditable draw. Bath St. also managed to draw against Eng. Elec. 'A', who only had two players—all credit to McPherson 69% and Pheysey 54.6%. Congratulations to Rod on his return to the city team.

Fellow strugglers, Colonsay, were beaten by Rafters 'A' 7-3, O'Connor beating Crafter, and Brenda Williams 38% beat Don Davies 27%. Rafters 'A' also drew with their first team minus John McNee, Davies and Timewell winning their singles and Ron Rumjahn beating Brian Davey. Against Trinity, Ferguson beat me against Eng. Elec. Crafter beat Sill 46% in two deuce games, Timewell beat Birch 87.9% and four points were gathered against Wav. Lab., Davies winning his two games against Roy Smith 67% and Alan Cameron.

Colonsay's struggle for survival again is not helped by playing short, as against Wav. Lab. and Eng. Elec. 'A' they lost 1-9 and 2-8. Should you arrive at Colonsay on time and are ready to play and there is no team, don't worry. At roughly 7.55 p.m. their newest star arrives, followed by the team, changed and ready to play.

How come they are ready when they have just arrived? The secret is they have been knocking up in the next hall, after all, games can't be claimed until 8.00 p.m. and the opposition can always play without a ball or a table or net. Matches should start at 7.30 p.m.—is this why they sometimes play short?

Wav. Lab. 'A' beat their first team 6-4, Worthington 46% losing to Hurworth and Gilmour, Tierney 36% lost to Farquharson and Gilmour. This followed two draws at Palmerston and Trinity 'A'. Fennah beat Dave 50% and brother Sammy Holland 50% and with Gilmour, the doubles. A good win for Gilmour over Bryce 64% and Hurworth over Sammy. Against Trinity 'A' Gilmour beat Merrick 40% and Dunning 50%. Against Eng. Elec., Hurworth and Gilmour beat Alec Sill, the score 7-3 to



Electric. A win for Eddie Moran over Paul Lennard and Moran and Cameron over Brown and Chase, gave Wavertree two points against Trinity. Bath St. 'A' seem to have a far stronger side than their first team. On the night they played Trinity, Ken Jones 31% beat Bagot and with Walton, beat Brown and Chase in the doubles. Bath St. 'A' seven, Rafter's three — what a shock! On closer scrutiny, however, we find Alan Read and Butterworth added to their wins over Alan Timewell with five claimed games. I am not sure who claimed the games because they must have been in such a hurry they didn't sign the card. A win for Butterworth over Turtle 70% and Jones and Walton over Tsang and Lee, shook Y.M. who won 8-2. Trinity 'A' were also beaten by Y.M. 7-3, Bagot and Griffiths 42% both beating Turtle and Harris, and Griffiths beat Smith and Turtle. A draw with Wav. Lab., thanks to Harris with two wins.

In the Trinity 'A' 9, Bath St. 'A' 1, Dave Butterworth was on first team duty. Again did I hear somebody mutter? It is confusing, but he has played more games in the 'A' team. Results from our leading players fluctuate, Paul Tsang 96% beat McNee and Marshall, but loses to Wayne Percival, Wayne in turn loses to Keith Williams and Rod McPherson, Williams beats McPherson but loses to Turtle and Mandaluff!! A few more averages — Lee 88 per cent, Smith 86, Percival 76, Strettle 78, Cline 88, D. Roberts 66, Phillips 30, Clayton 29, O'Sullivan 20, K. Williams 71, Davey 43, Marshall 92, McNee 80.

#### ERIC HARDMAN.

#### DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
L'pool YM 'A'	21	18	2	1	158
Palmerston 'A'	21	16	4	1	149
Beauclair	22	15	7	0	138
Trinity 'B'	22	11	7	0	130
Eng. Elec. 'B'	20	13	5	2	128
L'pool Jewish	19	13	5	1	111
Old Swan	18	11	6	1	104
Rafter's 'B'	21	10	9	2	102
Police	20	7	8	5	96
Bath St. 'B'	21	5	12	4	82
Linacre	21	6	12	4	80
Colonsay 'B'	18	4	11	3	68
Colonsay 'A'	22	1	21	0	53
Waterloo Park	20	1	19	0	31

With Palmerston further strengthening their team, they are now in position to challenge Y.M.C.A. for the title. The title looks now to be wrapped up by Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'A' and Palmerston 'A'. Police appear to have pulled themselves clear of relegation leaving Bath St. 'B', Linacre and Colonsay 'B' disputing who will go down with Waterloo Park and Colonsay 'A'. Bath St. 'B' have been in difficulty all season but are now fighting hard for every point. Against Y.M.C.A. Paul Taylor lost narrowly 21-23 in the 3rd to Noel Fagan whilst Alex Gould had a good match, beating Jim Clewett and combining with Tony Waddington to beat the strong Mandaluff/Fagan combination, Colonsay 'B', equally desperate for points, lost 4-6 to Police despite Dave Piper winning both his singles and the doubles with Harry Nelson. I doubt if anyone puts more into his matches than Dave.

Linacre are the team who have slipped badly. After 10 matches they had 57 points. Since then, however, they have only won one match, 6-4, against Colonsay 'A' in the following 10 and are now perilously placed.

In a match in which 6 games extended to 3 sets, Linacre lost 5 of them and the match 3-7. In particular Jack Davidson missed out losing 20-22 in the 3rd against Barry McLeod and going on to lose 19-21 in the 3rd against Gareth Jones. Frank Lacey also fell to Gareth's brinkmanship 16-21, 24-22, 19-21. Frank's narrowest miss this season was against Ted Mandaluff, going down 24-26 in the 3rd set in a match against Y.M.C.A. which proved pointless for Linacre. Rafter's 'B' have introduced A. Nisted and Pete Short. An 8-2 win against Colonsay 'B' with Reg. Hetherington belying his years in beating Barbara Kirkman and Dave Piper, and a 6-4 win against Trinity 'B'. The Police have made the most notable advance with all their players improving. In particular Gareth Jones is in fine form with wins over John Higham and Dave Wilson, of Trinity, to earn a draw. In a determined vein they beat Beauclair 6-4, a listless Ted Birch losing all his matches.

Old Swan, Trinity 'B', Liverpool Jewish, English Electric 'B' and Beauclair are all similarly placed. Old Swan fell further behind with 4-6 and 2-8 defeats against Liverpool Jewish and English Elec. 'B'. Trinity 'B' have had a number of close matches, losing 4-6 to Liverpool Jewish in a match in which John Hodges and John Henshaw won all their matches for Jewish; losing 4-6 to Beauclair and then beating Eng. Elec. 'B' 6-4, thanks to Dave Wilson beating George Bradley and Bill Ellard in singles and doubles with Dave Newton. Despite John Higham being in fine form against Y.M.C.A., beating Noel Fagan and Ted Mandaluff in singles and doubles with Tom, the Y.M.C.A. avenged their previous defeat. Liverpool Jewish used up the last of Les French's quota for this division against Beauclair for the second time this season and it paid off again with a 6-4 win. I managed to avenge my previous defeat against Les, but with Frank Murphy lost to Les and Dave Money. This is a great left and right-handed combination and with Dave Money using excessive side-spin into the backhand corner. Since Christmas, Eng. Elec. 'B' have been doing well with good wins of 8-2 against Old Swan and 6-4 against Palmerston, but their outside chance of promotion must have been dashed by a 2-8 defeat against Beauclair. Instrumental in this defeat was Ted Birch, who raised his game to beat Brian Crolley and George Bradley in expedite for the second time this season. (If anyone likes that sort of challenge Ted claims to be unbeatable in any match going to expedite). Beauclair's challenge fizzled out in a crushing 1-9 defeat at Palmerston. In a match in which seven games extended to three sets, two matches to expedite, finishing at 1 a.m., 1-9 was perhaps not a true reflection of the competition but this Palmerston team of Evans, Bradbury, Hayes and Burrows looks as strong as any in the division. Particularly impressive in this match were Arthur Hayes and Ian Burrows who, on his night, has one of the best backhand hits in Liverpool. This defeat took much of the motivation out of some of the Beauclair players and two further defeats followed. How-

ever, the same players showed they can rise to the occasion when they beat Y.M.C.A. 9-1, although Y.M.C.A. were without a player, but they were well beaten with Ted Mandaluff losing both singles to Ted Birch and Frank Murphy.

Bob Hudson continues to recruit players far and wide, his latest addition being Jack Evans, from Bolton. With Neale now in Manchester is any team safe from Bob?

For the top-of-the-table clash against Y.M.C.A., their most consistent player, Arthur Hayes, was not able to turn out so the Y.M.C.A. were perhaps somewhat fortunate to be able to hang on for a draw. Ian Burrows turned it on for Palmerston, beating Ted Mandaluff and Harry Johnson, whilst Noel Fagan won both his singles for Y.M.C.A. To me, it looks like very negative tactics by Y.M.C.A. in switching their doubles order, playing their best pair as No. 2 doubles—thus squaring the doubles results.

In the semi-finals Y.M.C.A. beat Linacre, whilst Beauclair let Palmerston off the hook after taking a 5-3 lead. Mick Allen produced his best form to beat Jack Evans and Bob Hudson, whilst Arthur Hayes excelled to pull Palmerston back for a draw. In the replay Palmerston won easily.

"HARRY".

#### DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Palmerston 'B' ..	21	19	0	2	171
Maghull .....	22	19	1	2	165
Elec. Supply ..	21	17	1	3	149
Bath St. 'C' ..	22	14	6	2	125
L'pool YM 'C' ..	22	10	8	4	115
Police 'A' .....	22	10	9	3	113
Beauclair 'A' ..	23	10	11	2	108
Eng. Elec 'D' ..	22	7	11	4	100
Trinity 'D' ....	22	8	11	3	95
Crawfords .....	23	5	15	3	83
Bath St. 'D' .....	18	5	11	2	74
Wav. Lab. 'C' ..	21	4	13	4	71
Vagabonds 'A' ..	21	2	18	1	65
Cadwa 'A' .....	20	2	17	1	64

Pride of place this time must go to Electric Supply for reaching the final of the Hyde Cup the hard way by beating Palmerston 'B' 6-4 and Maghull 7-3. This shows that Ernie Owens Pete Carney, Les Evans, A.

Biggs and R. Smith are currently the best team in our Division, and we wish them the best of luck in the final against Liverpool Y.M. 'B'.

Back to the league, Palmerston, Electric Supply and Maghull have left the rest of us way behind. So far I have only mentioned the Palmerston players whenever they have dropped one, a 7-3 win over Maghull recently has just about clinched the top spot for this season. Now Arthur Land has popped in to spell off Bob Hudson for reserve duties it looks as though the club won't reach its true level until the 'C' and 'D' teams reach the Second Division as well. But one sour note—I wish the bar traffic at Palmerston could be diverted through another door.

Bath Street 'C' and the Police are having a private battle for fourth place; they drew at Fairfield last November when the heroes for Bath Street were Alan Spencer with a double over Al Wood and George Wright, and Dave Cunningham the same over Al Wood (one of those nights Al?) and A. Garnett. Bath Street 'C' and 'D' also had a tight match recently, Alan Spencer making it a draw by beating John Pritchard 26-24 in the third.

Some notable results from Beauclair 'A' include an 8-2 over the Police, a draw with Y.M., 6-4 over Trinity and 7-3 v Wavertree Lab. Jim Lightburn hasn't won many this season, but when he does he makes it count. He beat Phil Luxon for his side's only point off Palmerston, and Bill Neary, of Wavertree Labour. Graeme Black makes news again with a double over Palmerston's 1 and 2. I wonder when English Electric will make history with a double father and son combo. Ken and Graeme Black we all know. Alby Parker and son Kevin have played together once, but Ken was missing that night.

Bath Street 'D' have not been doing so well lately, partly due to John Stewart's enforced business absences. Although John played regular First Division some years ago, his lack of regular practice is not letting us see what he can really do.

Trinity 'D' are now the most improved side in our Division and the outstanding player to watch out for is young John McLoughlin with recent victories over Graeme Black and Ken Roscoe, but Trinity don't send all missionaries abroad—keep one at home to teach our players how to count. In the last batch of cards you didn't once enter your record on the bottom line.

Only a few points separate the last four sides; one good win by any of these teams could haul them up to safety. Cadwa and Vagabonds now look very precarious. Understand Cadwa are disputing the walkover against Maghull, but even if their claim is upheld I can't see it making much difference to the result.

**Stop Press.**—Ex-1st Div. player, Bobby Owens, has signed for Vags. 'A'; that puts the cat among the relegation pigeons.

Incidentally, as the 1st Division is a team short, this is going to ripple down so that only three teams will be relegated from 3A and 3B and probably the next-to-bottom team with the best record will stay up—so keep an eye on your 3B neighbours.

Since my comments in the first magazine, the Police tell me they now have back screens to help keep the ball in reach. So as I can apparently score more points with my ball tip than I can with a bat, here goes for another crafty serve: How about forming a new competition in Liverpool, with entry restricted to all those ice-box clubs with no heating. All matches to be played in January and the trophy to be a replica of a well-known disabled brass monkey?

TED JANE.

**Tut! Tut!** It is a good job I didn't see that last remark, Ted. — Editor.



## DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
L'pool YM 'B' ..	23	17	1	5	152
Eng. Elec. 'C' ..	22	14	3	5	134
Vagabonds .....	22	13	3	6	130
Cadwa .....	20	13	1	6	129
Trinity 'C' .....	22	10	8	4	119
Bath St. 'E' .....	21	9	8	4	113
L'pool Jew. 'A' ..	18	9	6	3	101
Eng. Elec 'E' .....	20	7	9	4	92
Rafters 'C' .....	19	6	10	3	92
Colonsay 'C' .....	23	7	12	4	91
Old Swan 'A' .....	21	5	12	4	90
Woolton .....	20	4	11	5	88
Wav. Lab. 'B' .....	22	2	17	3	73
Police 'B' .....	22	3	18	1	72

### War & Peace, Parts 2 and 3 (abridged version)

The promotion battle has now narrowed down to three teams with very little to choose between them. Y.M.C.A. 'B' lead with Cadwa and Eng. Elec. 'C' close behind. Y.M.C.A. 'B' have strength in depth since the arrival of John (the hat) Hewitt, 20-2 to Gerry Goldring 14, 16 and Mike Power. He beat me in the league and cup semi-final. Alan Pickering has 17-5; Shahdul Alam 23-17, Paul Reed-Clayton and captain John Donnelly both about 50%. Cadwa have Mike Power, an outstanding player, 25-7; Dave Murray 16-8 and Ian Fletcher 15-9, Trevor Hughes about 50%. Cadwa have an excellent doubles record, with Fletcher/Murray winning 9 out of 10. Eng. Elec. 'C' don't have a really strong player who will take 2 every week. Julie Black 23-13, but Brian Cullen has the best record 27-13 and is a credit to the game. His friendly personality, good nature, win or lose, and good all-round game make him a pleasure to play against. Roly Craddock (he talks to himself more than I do) gives valuable support 22-16, with captain Wally Sill about 50%. Y.M.C.A. 'B' and Cadwa have drawn twice. In the return match Mike Power was the star, beating Hewitt and avenging a defeat by Alan in their first encounter. Alan Pickering won two this time. Mike also won two in the draw with Eng. Elec. 'C' as he did Brian Cullen. In the Y.M. 'B' draw with Cadwa, Brian had an excellent win over Alan Pickering, strong reserve Phil Thomson won two for Electric. Julie Black was unfortunate to

lose 18 in the third to both Hewitt and Pickering.

Jewish 'A' and Vagabonds are a short distance behind the top three. For Jewish 'A' myself (47-5) and Gerry Goldring (36-14) are the mainstays, with Warren Davies about 50%.

Paula Breithaupt beat Liverpool Junior, Marie Gaul, 21-12, 19-21, 21-10 to justify her city team place. Ted Barnes is Vagabonds leading player (41-5) with the dependable Doug Ridgeway giving him most support (25-15). Tommy Johnstone has about 50%. Barnes/Johnstone are a formidable doubles combination (13-4). The two matches between Jewish 'A' and Vagabonds produced some surprises. Vagabonds won 10-0 at home and lost 7-3 at Jewish. Ted Barnes and I had two close matches, both going to three, with honours even. Peter Barton had an excellent win over Gerry Goldring but Gerry won 8, 13 at Jewish. Jewish lost 6-4 to the top three. In the Cadwa match Mike Power lost 18 in the third to me and 19 in the third to Warren Davies and Ian Fletcher won two for Cadwa. Vagabonds drew with Eng. Elec. 'C' with Barnes, Ridgeway and Cullen winning two each, but were hammered 8-2 by Y.M. 'B', John Hewitt beating Ted Barnes 16 in the third.

In the return with Cadwa, Vags. managed a draw, Ted Barnes avenging his earlier defeat by Mike Power 5, 12.

Police 'B' have slumped and are favourites to go down with Wav. Lab. 'B'. Colonsay 'C' are in the process of climbing clear after the re-ranking which has brought Alan Guy into the team along with Pat Coyle and Julie Turner. Alan has won 19 and lost one against Les Griffin, of Old Swan 'A'. Peter Coyle is a star of the future. His determination to do his best, allied to rapidly improving skill and pleasant manner make him one of the most promising and nicest young players. Julie had a good win over Kevin Dyer in Colonsay's 6-4 win over Bath St. 'E'. Julie won two in this match with her and Denis Brookfield both beating reserve A. Christ. Veteran Cyril Smith won and Peter beat Rimmer and Christian, of Police.

Woolton's revival is due to Bill Hargreaves (29-9), Dave Williams 50% winning seven out of the last 10, including wins against Doug Ridgeway and Eric Ferguson.

Rafters had a good win 6-4 in their return against Vags. Fred Price had a great 17, 15 win over Ted Barnes. Fred has (25-15) to date with Bill Kelly and Alan Nisted about 50%. J. Kelly is Trinity's best player with (27-10), and Phil Thomson is having an excellent season for Eng. Elec. 'E' with a 24-12 record for them and has represented Liverpool's juniors. He is backed up by 50% records of Graham Hubbard and the improved Alan Hewitt. For Bath St. leading scorer is Brian Aldred (25-13) with Cyril Smith lending good support (20-12). Jewish removed Trinity 'D' 7:3 without Gerry Goldring but for Old Swan the drama continued against Woolton. With the score 5-4 to Old Swan, Pete Dobbs went on against Bill Hargreaves. Woolton must have felt confident, especially when Bill took the first game 21-14. Then Peter fought back magnificently to take the second game 16. In a nerve-wracking third game Peter won 25-23 to put his team into the quarter-final against Jewish. The first game ended 5-5 with Peter and myself winning two each. The second game reached 4-4 with Old Swan holding one game advantage. Warren Davies went on with Les Griffin. If he lost two straight Old Swan had won, with 5-4 and a three-game advantage. If he won a game it gave Jewish a chance in the last set. Les won the first game 18 and the score crept to 19-all in the second. Warren took the next two points to throw the match wide open. Les went on to win the third game, again 19 in the third to give Old Swan a 5-4 lead. The final game brought together myself and Basil Townsend. My task was to beat Basil in two-straight to level the match 5-5 and 22 games all.

I won the first 17 and had a fright in the second when 8-3 down. Eventually I won 17 again to tie the match. Then the big point-count started and resulted with a win for Jewish by 769 points to 748, a mere 21 points separating the teams. Bad luck Les. Ironically

we played them again in the league match the following week. This time they included Basil and Ken Linforth, obviously bent on revenge. Ken (19-5) has one of the best records in the division, in fact Jewish won 6-4, including first-ever win for Gerry Goldring over Basil Townsend 15 and 19.

In the semi-final Jewish played Y.M.C.A. 'B', who quickly swept into a 4-1 lead. I beat Alan Pickering 18, 19, Warren Davies beat Paul Reed-Clayton and then Gerry Goldring won two in succession against Shahidul Alam and Reed-Clayton to level the match 4-4. Warren played Alan Pickering, winning the first easily 21-12. He led 14-11 in the second and lost 21-16, and the third 21-19 to give Y.M. a 5-4 lead. I played John Hewitt and won easily 21-11, John, however, winning the second 21-13 and the third 21-16 to put Y.M. into the final.

Here are some close games and the "top ten" averages:—Les Griffin beat Ted Barnes 14-15, 22-20. Ted Barnes beat Bill Hargreaves 13, -17, 23-21; Paula Breithaupt beat Vincent Kelly 18-14, 24-22; Brian Aldred beat Gerry Goldring -14, 22-20, 23-21; Alan Hewitt beat Cyril Smith 18, -19, 25-23. Pete Dobbs, of Old Swan, is certainly having an exciting season. Take a look at these scores: Dobbs beat W. Hargreaves -14, 16, 25-23; Dobbs beat B. Cullen 19, -6, 24-22; Dobbs beat Janet Davies -17, 16, 25-23; Dobbs LOST to Gerry Goldring -19, 18, 22-20.

#### Top Ten Averages—

A. Guy 19-1; J. Hewitt 20-2; L. French 47-5; E. Barnes 41-5; A. Pickering 37-5; K. Linforth 19-5; M. Power 25-7; W. Hargreaves 29-9; J. Kelly 27-10; G. Goldring 36-14.

See you at the Closed if not before.

LES/TOLSTOY/FRENCH.



### DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Fire Service	22	18	2	2	174
Maghull 'A'	21	19	0	2	168
L'pool Jew. 'B'	20	16	2	2	142
Polytechnic	21	12	8	1	128
Rafters 'D'	18	9	6	3	106
Cadwa 'B'	19	9	8	2	88
Eng. Elec. 'F'	20	6	11	3	85
Police 'C'	18	7	8	3	83
Police 'F'	21	7	13	1	76
Bedford House	17	5	10	2	75
L'pool Jew. 'C'	17	3	11	3	58
Barker & Dob.	19	1	18	0	38
Orrell 'B'	17	1	16	0	29

It would appear that the championship issue now rests between Maghull and Fire Brigade. Maghull just shaded a win in the return between the two, which could be a pointer. After losing both his singles in the first encounter, Dick Watson was the hero this time, with wins over Ashley and Bird. For Fire Brigade, Eddie Owens is in excellent form, as he showed with excellent wins over Eric Taylor and Andy Smethurst. It could be his teammates will have to start matching him if they are to live up to my forecast, and take the title.

I have to forgo modesty and name Peter Roberts and myself as the division's top doubles partnership, despite losing our 100% league record to Dave Harrison and Alex Anderson, of Poly. Dave is, as I have said before, the division's No. 1, still boasting a 100% record, and I feel we should wish him luck in the restricted singles of the league tournament, as it would put some of our "superiors" in their place if he could win.

The score card for the Jewish "derby" game makes interesting reading as the score is recorded as 6-2 in favour of the "B" team. Derek Dorman has his game v C. Blackburn recorded as a walk-over, and his other two sets being recorded as void? Also for the 'C' team, W. Davies had one walk-over against him. I'm sure everyone will want to ask David Cohen the story behind this one. At first glance it suggests a lack of club spirit.

I have no details yet, but I believe Rafters 'D' and Jewish 'B' will contest the Cup Final, which confirms our position of ascend-

ancy over 4B. Rafters will be looking to Jerry O'Keefe to give the example he has been showing all season. I think he will and thus ensure a very close run game.

I am sure Orrell will be disappointed to see Jewish 'C' gave a walk-over to Barker and Dobson, as the battle to avoid the wooden spoon is maintaining both teams' interest, and this could be decisive at the end of the season.

Ken Darlington (Poly.), a Wirral representative player of some stature, made a rare appearance against Police 'C', an event which would normally have made his team confident of two comfortable "calls". As it turned out, however, he lost both his singles against Norman Morrissey (23-21) and Sue Anderson (21-19) both in third, a result which would have caused disbelief in Birkenhead.

KEN BRADY.

### DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Orrell	18	15	2	1	134
Palmerston 'C'	18	17	0	1	134
Eng. Elec 'G'	17	11	5	1	106
Maghull 'B'	18	8	8	2	102
St. Hugh's	16	8	4	4	97
Rafters 'E'	15	9	5	1	86
L'pool Jew. 'D'	20	4	15	1	77
Cadwa 'C'	18	6	11	1	71
Trinity 'E'	16	6	9	1	66
Police 'D'	17	5	11	1	64
Police 'E'	14	4	9	1	57
Colonsay 'D'	14	0	14	0	11

Fazakerley Hospital record expunged.

Palmerston must now be favourites for the championship, their policy of strengthening their team according to the strength of the opposition certainly paying dividends. Orrell are not able to pursue a similar policy and have played the same team of A. Williams, P. Wilson, D. Jones and K. Miller all season. The final decider may well be their return game, when Orrell will be hoping to reverse the 7-3 defeat of the first game. I feel that the Palmerston team of Ken Davies, Paul and Tony Luxon and A. Roberts must be one of the strongest seen in this division for some years, but I still feel that Marie Lupton and Lil Wynne are as good as any 3 and 4 in the division.

If the first and second places are fairly clear-cut, the next four positions are becoming more confused every week. Rafter's 'E', Eng. Elec. 'G', Maghull 'B' and St. Hugh's, are the teams concerned. I still fancy St. Hugh's to finish in the 3rd position, although some weeks they seem determined to prove me wrong and lose points with gay abandon. Rafter's 'E' are improving every week, their 1 and 2, Clive Roberts and Geoff Maher, are amongst the best young players I have seen for some time. Geoff has a great forehand and Clive has overcome most of his early season impetuosity, the same promise being shown by Kevin Parker and George Cheng, of Eng. Elec. 'G'. These two were largely responsible for their 7-3 win over Maghull 'B', winning all four singles and combining to win their double. They must find the example and experience of Andy Byrne a great incentive. Modesty forbids me saying much about Maghull 'B', but I must mention Sue Hughes, because she has threatened to stop speaking to me if I don't, but seriously, Sue's play has improved tremendously, and she is now playing with much more confidence. Geoff Banks continues to confound opponents every week with his apparently elastic arms helping to overcome his lack of mobility.

I am at a loss to explain the lack of impact from Trinity 'E' and Cadwa 'C'. I expected to find Trinity amongst the front runners and on paper, their line-up looks quite strong, but perhaps playing their home matches in almost arctic conditions is having an effect. The re-ranking of D. Massie must have increased the pressure on Carol Flood, and it's no fun to know that you cannot afford to lose without almost certainly losing the match.

Liverpool Jewish 'D' seem to be trying to confuse us all with the match cards. After 14 games, 56 points, after 17 games 59, a draw with St. Hugh's and losses of 7-3 to Rafter's and 6-4 to English Electric, which I reckon gives them 68 points, so check your books Electric.

Police 'E' having lost Alan Heague and Ira Russell, leave John R. and Jim Conroy to try to fulfil

their fixtures with the help of Jim Tyrer and the 'F' team—a great shame this. Fighting out the wooden spoon position are Fazakerly Hospital and Colonsay 'D' and should think that both of these teams will be glad to see the end of a disastrous season. Vincent Kilty has tried to maintain the interest of the Colonsay youngsters Frank Rodgers, Nicky Tremarco and Phil Smith, but conceding a walk-over to Jewish 'D' didn't help. Sue Anderson, Police 'D' v Maghull, Paul Chaloner, Colonsay v Maghull, Steve Farr, Maghull v Palmerston, and R. Dawson, Fazakerly v Maghull, all won singles to save their team from whitewashes. L. Rosenbloom and Julien Quirk, Jewish 'D', both won singles against Palmerston. Cathy Gore, Jewish 'D' beat Andy Byrne, E.E., 20-22, 21-15, 22-24—a great win for Cathy—and not to be outdone, Anne Carl'ne, Jewish 'D' beat P. Begley, St. Hugh's, 21-19, 26-24.

I have heard that one of the senior players in the division has been reported to the Management Committee for ungentlemanly conduct. If this is true, it is a sad reflection on individual behaviour, but seems to be an exception in a division that, to me, is one of the most friendly I have played in.

STAN CLARK.

#### DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Kirkby	21	19	1	1	162
Trinity 'J'	19	17	1	1	152
Trinity 'F'	19	12	4	3	115
Vagabonds 'B'	19	12	4	3	112
Maghull 'C'	20	9	7	4	111
Orrell 'A'	20	9	8	3	106
Bath St. 'G'	17	11	3	3	103
Trinity 'T'	20	8	11	1	94
BOHS	19	3	12	4	70
Trinity 'H'	19	5	12	2	67
Trinity 'G'	18	4	13	1	60
Crawfords 'A'	19	1	16	2	46
St. Katherine's	16	0	16	0	30

Fazakerly Hospital record expunged.

Kirkby and Trinity 'J' have established their positions at the top of the division. Kirkby, led by the division's top player, Mark Monaghan, have beaten most of their rivals, including 8-2 wins over Vagabonds and Bath St. 'G'. Against the teams lower down the

division they are winning convincingly. So, too, are Trinity 'J' who, despite two 6-4 defeats by Bath Street are still in with a good chance of winning the division. Doubles by Billy Sneade and Norman Cutler earned the points for the 'J' team in the second of these meetings.

Vagabonds started the New Year badly with successive defeats by Trinity 'F', Kirkby and Orrell 'A'. Although they have recovered their form somewhat now, these set-backs enabled Bath Street and Trinity 'F' to close the gap on Vagabonds, and the battle for third place is as exciting as the fight for the leadership.

The Orrell 'A' team put up a great performance to beat Vagabonds 6-4, R. Stevenson getting an excellent double over Joan Monaghan and Marie Gaul, both in three.

A match which really catches the eye is the Vagabonds versus Bohemians clash which ended 6-4 to Vagabonds. Eight of the sets went to three, Joan Monaghan recording a double for Vagabonds and C. Reynolds responding similarly for Bohemians. Derek Evans is having a good season for Bohemians. He got an excellent double over John Simm and Dave Aimson, of Trinity 'T' and also his side's sole point against Kirkby, a fine 21-14, 15-21, 21-15 win over Muriel Cox.

Another player having a very good season is Dave Southworth, of my own team, Trinity 'F'. A run of 19 consecutive singles wins was ended by W. Gibson, of Maghull. Probably the most exciting of these wins was over Chislett, of Bath St. 'G' 17-21, 22-20, 21-19, which ended the latter's previous 100% record. Trinity 'F', in fact, have moved up the division well after getting off to a rather slow start. We are improving on most of our results obtained in the first half of the season.

The experienced Maghull team are having a consistent season. They fought an exciting 5-5 draw with Orrell 'A'. L. Harper and B. Phillips got doubles for Orrell but Maghull, showing how important the doubles sets are, by winning both. Orrell appear to lack strength

in depth. They do not have a regular line-up and only R. Stevenson seems to win consistently for them.

A. Thatcher, of Crawford's, seems to be fighting a lone battle for his side. He got his side's only points over Vagabonds with an excellent double, and another noteworthy double over Trinity 'P'. D. Williamson is the only other Crawford's player winning with any sort of regularity.

St. Katherine's, still without a win, continue to struggle, but they are battling on bravely. They came close to getting a draw with Trinity 'H', only going down 6-4, J. Stockton a double here. Despite losing 10-0 to Kirkby, I notice that P. Bradbury took Mark Monaghan to three and Eric Cohen did likewise to Paul Brown—good efforts these.

There was some discussion in the last "Digest" about players turning up late for matches. From a personal point of view, I am very glad that the Division contains so many sporting teams, since having to go to college necessitates me arriving late for all home matches. Apologies for that and many thanks for allowing it.

To end off with, some wins which I think deserve a mention: R. Brownlow, of St. Katherine's, over Maghull's J. Gill 21-14, 28-26, for his side's only point in that match; Ian Walker (Trinity 'F') over Marie Gaul (Vagabonds) 22-20, 18-21, 21-18; Dave Aimson over Ritchie Cragg (Kirkby); Mike Corcoran, a notable win over Maghull's Frank Pattinson; Tommy Gough (Vagabonds) beat John Simm (Trinity 'T') and in the same match Irene Clarke beat Pete Farrell 15-21, 23-21, 21-19. Closest match of the year so far and unlikely to be beaten as such was George Wilson's win over Bath Street's P. Kilbane for Trinity 'H' 20-22, 22-20, 27-25.

The Stamp Cup Final is a 5A v 5B clash. After being on the end of some rather "hot" stuff from the Fire Service in the quarter-finals, I think Kirkby will find the going tough. They may do well to come out of it with a replay, though it promises to be a cracking match.

MIKE GRIFFITHS.



## DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Fire Service 'A' ..	20	20	0	0	180
Bath St. 'F' .....	19	16	1	2	152
Vagabonds 'C' ..	21	15	3	3	146
Wav. Lab. 'E' ..	20	12	5	3	128
Nat. Giro .....	18	11	4	3	109
Wav. Lab. 'D' ..	19	11	6	2	106
L'pool Jew. 'E' ..	21	6	11	4	94
Kirkby 'A' .....	18	8	0	1	84
Woolton 'A' .....	20	5	13	2	65
BOHS 'C' .....	18	4	12	2	60
Trinity 'K' .....	20	2	15	3	53
BOHS 'A' .....	19	3	16	0	48
Cadwa 'D' .....	21	1	20	0	47

The unfortunate victims of Rule 20 were Bohemians 'D'. They have paid for the mistakes of other teams as well as their own.

Those teams who have played at Cadwa recently have been fortunate in that they will have played in the main hall and thus been free from the stampede of Bingo players passing through to the canteen. The Cadwa M.C. should consider doing something about this as I feel sure the Bingo players would soon object if the T.T. players started charging in and out during Bingo sessions. How about my towel, Trevor?

The departure of Bohemians 'D' means someone else is going to inherit the "wooden spoon" position and Cadwa 'D' are making a real effort to make sure it won't be them. They have already passed their first half-sets total and recently gave themselves a good boost with an 8-2 v Bohemians 'C'. More success would come their way if they maintained control over their temperament. Showing definite improvement is Ray Watkins, having won no sets in 11 matches but picking up six from the next four. With three players in the 14 age bracket, a lot of responsibility falls on the captain, and in this respect Graham Bethell is doing his share, having won 19 of their 44 sets to date.

Bath St. 'F' have lost their regular turn-out but are still keeping in touch with Fire Service 'A', although they have no chance of overtaking them they have maintained their consistency and easily disposed of third-place contenders Vagabonds 'C' and Wav. Lab. 'E' 7-3. Only Ron Georgeson and Reg Edwards can now be considered regulars. They could only manage

a draw with Giro, a bad night for Ron when for only the second match this season he failed to win at least one singles. Ron likes to defend but when necessary can produce just as good an attack.

Tim McCoy has returned to the fold at Giro to strengthen the team. We can expect to see an improvement in their results and they will start moving up the table. They had a good result at Fire Service, taking four sets from them, winning both doubles and Tim McCoy both singles.

Fire Service 'A' duly sorted Wav. Lab. 'E' out with a 9-1 thrashing. Only a win from Jeff Pownall avoided their first 10-0 defeat. Pete Davies confirmed his top average rating with a two straight win over Jeff Pownall. He is still undefeated and looks all set to finish the season with 100%. Their playing record is first class, this in spite of having used eight players. Had they played the strongest team every week their sets against total would still be in single figures. Only one player has lost two in a match and the highest lost by any player is five.

I am confident they will do us proud in the Cup Final.

Jewish 'E' have shown a marked improvement which stems from the introduction of Gill Rowbotham. They recently beat Wav. Lab. 'E' 6-4, although to be fair to Wav., we had a weakened team due to Jewish failing to inform us of their change of match night. David Skulmick continues to show steady improvement and along with Gill forms the main strength of the team. With Alan Stoops as his partner he recorded what must be the best doubles win of the season when they defeated Fire Service's top doubles pair of Davies/Cullen in two straight. Bohemians 'C' are the opposite of their 'A' team, getting a steady haul of sets and only twice had a blank scorecard. They are a good pointer to the improved form shown by Trinity 'K' and Woolton 'A', beating both 7-3 in the first half, but being held to a draw in the return. Cadwa 'D' did even better, turning a 7-3 defeat into an 8-2 victory. Bohemians 'C' have the distinction of having used the same four players in all their

matches to date. A record shared with only two other teams in the Liverpool League. For my money a player who turns up every week is of far more value to his club, win or lose, than a player who is unreliable, no matter how good he might be. Vagabonds 'C' and Wav. Lab. 'E' are still in contention for 3rd place with the odds strongly in favour of Vagabonds. Their most regular turnout has assured them of better results than Wav. Lab. 'E' have been able to achieve.

We do have two likely looking juniors with us in Malcolm McEvoy and Mark Smith. Of the two I think Mark has improved the most, although he is inclined to be a bit lazy and his temperament is a bit suspect. However much help juniors receive their eventual standard is entirely dependent on how hard they are prepared to work at improving their game. This means ample practice.

On to Wav. 'D', my favourite women players. They are having a good season and to them success in enjoyment of their matches, is as important, sometimes even more so, than winning, and their team spirit is amazing. Amy Bell even turned up at matches when injured and did her share of umpiring. They even have their own supporters' club in the shape—nice, too—of Sue Anderson (Police).

Woolton 'A' continue to improve with wins over all the teams below them. They have been without Ian Baker for most of the second half after he had a very successful first half. Chris Harper is developing into a promising player and prevented a 10-0 for Fire Service with

...win over G. Layton.

Kirkby 'A' also had a lone winner when Pete Holmes beat Ron Georgeson in two straight. Kirkby have had a re-rank, which has resulted in Muriel Cox moving up into the 1st team and Mal Williams coming into the 'A'. We must be a stronger division than 5A for in his last match against Jewish 'E' he lost his two and Kirkby, bear in mind, are one of the top two in 5A.

Highest score I have noticed so far was Bond (Cadwa) v Riley (Wav. Lab.) 31-29. Stan finally put us all out of our misery when, after losing the first, he took the 2nd game 20 and 13 in the 3rd. I thought we were going to be there all night.

Whether we like them or not, the rules are there to be adhered to, and there is no point in arguing about them if you are in the wrong. If you feel someone is breaking one rule it doesn't give you the right to break another.

KEN ARMSON.

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