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**TABLE
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DIGEST**

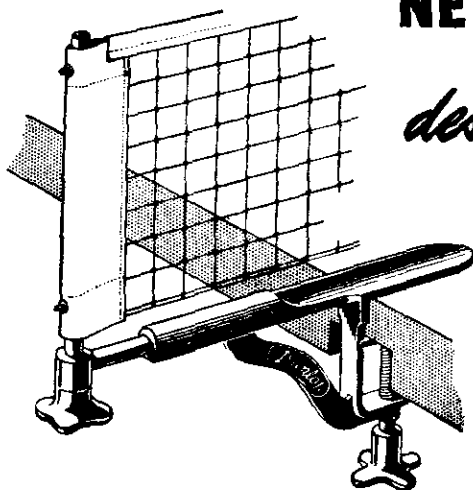
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Digest

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EDITORIAL BOARD :

Joint Editors : J. D. Pattison and J. D. Loughrey

D. M. Foulis

W. Stamp

A. Montgomery

COMMENT

LIKE every other democratic organisation the League has always provided ample opportunity for every member to put forward suggestions and criticisms as to its organisation. One of our regrets has been that the Digest has been so poorly utilised in this respect.

It is a fact, however, that while few avail themselves of the opportunity many grumble about what should or should not be done. Apart from anything else the net result is a loss to the League, for the ideas of as many as possible must only serve to bring the organisation nearer to perfection.

May we suggest therefore that every one gives the matter some thought ; discuss ideas with fellow members and if necessary have proposals brought forward at the next A.G.M.

We give a number of possible starting points for discussion.

Reorganisation of the divisions, a subject arousing considerable interest and being carefully considered at the moment.

Reviving the divisional cup for competition among Division 3, 4 and 5 (Liverpool and Wirral) on knock-out lines.

A similar tournament was successful in 1950-51. Some may think the Second Division should be included but is felt that they should be grouped with the First Division.

Regional tournaments rules need tightening up. Women regional players for instance, have little chance of success while most of the leading women players of the League are eligible for the Regional tournaments. Regional tournaments and the Hyde Cup should be confined to players who are registered regional players.

The anomaly of young players being able to win championship medals in two divisions in one season, as for example, two or three Hoylake Y.M.C.A. players who appeared for the first and "B" sides for most of the season.

Infringement of ranking orders. At present when a player playing for a team for which he is not eligible the penalty is awarding any sets he may have won to the opposition. It is suggested that, as in other sports, two points should be automatically deducted from the side.

Continued on page 14.

From the Secretary's Desk.

ANOTHER CRUISE TO MARK END OF A GREAT SEASON

By W. STAMP.

LOOKING back on our 26th season I think we can congratulate ourselves on making further progress. We have more clubs and players than ever before and the standard of play appears to be higher than any other post-war year.

All League matches were completed by the end of the season, with the exception of three postponed games which were played on March 31. This is a record and a credit to the co-operation of all concerned and was achieved notwithstanding the increased fixture list due to the re-introduction of 12-team divisions.

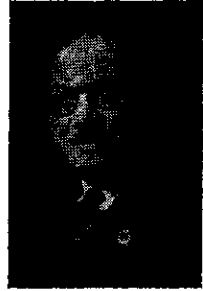
The "Maxwell Fyfe" and "D. M. Foulis" handicap competitions were very successful in their inaugural season, and we feel sure there will be a much bigger entry next year, because we will not begin so early in the season, thus giving everyone an opportunity of competing.

DIVISIONAL CUP

Representations have been made to the Management Committee that the team cup competition for the 3rd, 4th and 5th divisions should be re-introduced. This and other matters concerning next season's programme is receiving the active consideration of the Committee for discussion at the Annual General Meeting.

Reports on the various cup finals will be found elsewhere, but I would like to pay a tribute to all the clubs and their officials who staged the semi-finals and finals and went to a lot of trouble to accommodate spectators, not forgetting our hosts for our Lancashire League matches.

There is a record entry for the Closed Championships which commence at Dingle Vale Schools on April 21, and there will be a lot of toil and sweat, but I hope no blood and tears, before we conclude the preliminaries on the 25th. The finals are as usual at the Y.M.C.A., Mount Pleasant, at 7-30



p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, at which we hope every club will be represented.

Many years ago we decided to have our own die cast from which the medals should be made, and a colour scheme was decided upon for the enamel which would give some indication of the league or cup competition for which it was awarded. Many of our members are not aware of this and for their information I append a list :-

Division 1.—Blue centre, maroon and yellow ribbons. Divisions 2, 3, 4 and 5.—Blue centre, green ribbons. Womens 1st.—Maroon centre, black ribbons (brooches). Bartholomew Cup.—Maroon centre, light blue ribbons (brooches). Readman Cup.—Maroon centre, blue ribbons. Hyde and Stamp Cups.—Blue centre, maroon ribbons.

All the Regions, together with the runners-up in the cup competitions receive plain silver medals.

REPEAT REQUESTED

The river dance cruise was such a success last year that many requests have been received for a repeat and accordingly the "Royal Iris" has been booked for Wednesday, May 7. We leave Liverpool Landing stage at 7-30 p.m., calling at Seacombe at 7-40 and returning at 10-30 and 10-40 respectively. Dancing will be to Reg Edwards and his Orchestra, and there will be various competitions in which all can join.

The "Royal Iris" as most of you are aware, has been specially built for cruising and has glass enclosed decks giving a good view.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves last year, and we hope to have your support again in this last social event of the season. The tickets are 4/- each and are limited. Your club secretary has an application card for tickets. Contact him as soon as possible or make direct application to me at 3 Farmdale Close. Let us make this a fitting conclusion to a very successful season.

Hetherington Man of Match

By J. H. C. Hughes.

BALFOUR won the Readman Cup by beating Rafters A by 11 games to 10 after they had finished five sets each. This looks as if the final was a close and exciting match. Close it was but though it might have been exciting to the players and their supporters, I do not think the rest of the spectators found it so.

The play never reached the standard we were entitled to expect. This may have been due to the slippery state of the floor. Water had been put down and several times we saw the players putting in some good work with the mop.

Amusement was given to the spectators by the positions the players sometimes found themselves in, but the lack of firm footing could not have amused the players and must have had an effect on confidence.

Ken Harolf was most at home for he was, I was told, wearing yachting shoes.

Rafters had to bring in Ron Crayson for Albert Montgomery who was ill, but this in no way weakened them for he won both his sets.

CARELESS SERVES

The match between Grayson and Davies was the only one to go to three and this, coupled with the rather careless throwing away of point, when serving, may have been the cause of the absence of that tenseness, one expected to find.

Balfour finally obtained victory when Davies beat Morley two straight in the last match of the night, despite the fact that Morley led 20-17 in the second game.

The man of the match to my mind was the Balfour skipper, Reg Hetherington. Not only did he beat both Ted Rumjahn and Morley two straight but he showed astute captaincy in the order in which he put his players on. He also showed that in this game of ours there is much more than some of our present players yet realise.

Airmen were Too Strong

By J. D. Loughrey.

IT has been obvious since the entry of the R.A.F. (West Kirby) into the League last season that it would not be long before they would capture one of the major prizes. They did so by beating Cadwa in the final of the Hyde Cup.

Cadwa made a good start, were twice in the lead, and were only two-three down at the interval, but from then on the Airmen clearly showed their superiority and were worthy winners.

Cadwa just did not have the strength to match this side and I thought it said a great deal for their spirit and determination that they obtained as many as three sets. No better show of fighting ability was given than by veteran Ronnie Crafter, who was 12-19 down to Fishburn only to recover to deuce and then to win 22-20—a great effort.

“NEEDLE” MISSING

Ian Morris gave an immaculate display in winning both his sets for Cadwa, but I was disappointed that his match with White came when the result could not affect the issue. As it was we had the best exhibition of the evening but the ‘needle’ was missing. The two had met in the inter-divisional match a week previously when White won 21-19 in the third, so for Ian it must have been a sweet revenge.

Dunks and Baron won both their sets for the R.A.F. and although the former was taken to three on each occasion neither was ever seriously extended. Crafter was not able to repeat his early success when he played Griffiths, a player of great ability, but the set provided one of the closest matches of the night, the last named winning 21-19 and 22-20.

There was a real cup-tie atmosphere about the match, a packed room, many supporters of both sides (each team sent a coach), and plenty of vocal encouragement. Indeed I felt that rattles and colours might make their appearance at any moment.

R.A.F. were clearly the better side and fully deserved their victory, but Cadwa kept trying to the bitter end and deserve congratulations for a brave if unsuccessful effort against superior forces.

BECOMING A RAFTERS HABIT

By Margaret Lindner.

CONGRATULATIONS to Rafterns on winning the Bartholomew Cup for the fourth year in succession, and to Bibby's who, for the second year, were worthy challengers.

The final score was 7-3 but only two of the sets went to three games. Experience told and gave the winners just that extra confidence. Bluey and Pinkie May were in great form and respectively gave a grand display of defence and attack in winning all their sets.

Bluey gave Rafterns a good start by beating Joyce Mitchell 21-12, 21-19, and the game between Pinkie and Joyce was a grand finale and the highlight of the evening. Neither showed nor asked for mercy. Pinkie won 22-24, 21-18, 21-14.

Olwen Southall after a slow start against Gladys Brown, who won the first game 21-13, played well to win both her sets against Gladys and Muriel Bannister. Unfortunately for Bibby's Gladys was unable to maintain the

accuracy of the first game after changing ends, which gave Olwen time to get on to her game.

Joan Dinwoodie was never happy against the left-handed attack and defence of Joan Brennand who won 21-13, 21-15.

Winners for Bibby's were Muriel Bannister, who has improved tremendously, and received great applause for her side's first win against Pat Grundy 21-10, 21-17, when the score was 3-0 in favour of Rafterns. Pat also went down to Joan Dinwoodie, playing much more confidently than in her previous set. Joan is a player to be watched.

Lil Rimmer was always in command of the game against Joan Brennand which she won 21-14, 21-17.

I should again like to compliment both teams on their smart appearance, and at the same time appeal to all other clubs to follow their example. It needs so little but what a big difference it makes.

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Homecroft Snatch Second Place

AFTER many a close match and more than one defeat in mid-season, Homecroft have repeated last season's feat of becoming runners-up to Balfour. I'll admit that their success did not seem to me to be likely until near the end of the season but a really good 8-2 victory over their all-too-close rivals, Balfour "A," just did it, giving Homecroft the superior set average and league position.

Though not in the team for the latest win, some credit must go to A. Lee for his double set scoring effort in Homecroft's away win against Rafter's "A" early in March.

No team can win the League championship without showing consistently good form throughout the season. And Balfour are no exception to that rule.

To lose only one League match in two seasons is a fine achievement and the Smithdown Road club's first string deserve all credit for this notable feat which has given them the championship for the second successive season.

FINE BALANCE

And it is even more to their credit that each of their five regular players contributed his or her share in the success. Indeed, the fine balance of the team has been its striking quality. Well done Balfour, a fine performance and a well deserved success.

Crosby Scouts have not done as well as might have been expected after their defeat of the champions. Oækhill, on the other hand, have just shot up the table in recent weeks. I doubt if the interchange of any of Oakhill's present five would affect the team's scoring (and winning) sequence. Len Ross lost his place, perhaps unluckily on his record, to R. Hudson mid-season but, when recalled has won as usual.

No more long journeys to Hoylake, however pleasant it may be at the baths in the summer, as Acacia, in spite of a very determined eleventh-hour bid for safety, just could not catch Bibby's, who went a long time without adding to the 10 points they gleaned relatively earlier on in the current season.

Two or even three seasoned campaigners rarely are able to win matches for any one team, and lack of keenness and willingness by tailenders to assist cost Anfield, Crosby, Bibby's and African Oil Mills a good many points in the last month or two.

So cut-throat has been the competition of the League that after twenty matches only six players—P. and E. Rumjahn, (Rafter's), R. Jones (Homecroft) and Reg. Hetherington, Les Davies and H. Willcock (Balfour)—has scored 30 or more sets and only another 19 players had passed the 20 mark.

African Oil Mill enjoy (?) the odd position of splitting the league table in two — not good enough to hunt for medals and seemingly far too strong for the lower five teams. Bill Pierce's old touch just wasn't there at first, but later he got both sets at No. 1 against Balfour at Smithdown Road.

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BALFOUR DESERVED PROMOTION

AS this is my last article of the season

I would like to make some comments of a general nature concerning our division instead of the customary more factual report. They are my own reactions and observations of the season's play and no doubt there will be some who will disagree with them.

In general I consider the standard of matches produced at least one game of excellent table tennis.

The most outstanding feature was the intense rivalry between all teams. Matches were played in a tense, keen atmosphere, with every player giving of his best, all determined to win.

Apart from one of two exceptions no team was vastly superior to another that they could afford to take things easily.

NO WEAKNESS

Balfour "B" top dogs throughout the season, thoroughly deserved the championship and their promotion to the first division. Every one of their team played consistently well, the five regulars all having individual records at least 65 per cent success. No weakness there!

The fight for second place was hard and long, with Livex, always lying handy, finally gaining the honours. They were, however, given many a scare, but by defeating all their rivals, Hoylake, Bohemians and Homecroft "A" 6-4 in turn, they too merited their promotion.

Relegated to the third division are Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. "A" and St. Michael's, both of whom were weakened

by the loss of at least two of three of their regular players. Birkenhead were the hardest hit and were slightly out of their class in the division. Let's hope they can build up again and regain their status.

St. Michael's always fought hard but were not quite good enough, lacking a strong No. 1. They too, will certainly come back when they get some of their former members back from the forces.

Although some of the young players showed promise, it was the older and more experienced players who had the best records. D. Rigby (St. Michael's), who is only 16, is perhaps the brightest hope for he has a good all-round style combined with a strong forehand drive. His play is mature considering his age and experience.

G. Exell (Wallasey Juniors) will have gained valuable experience and should be the better for the season's play. Other young players, like Davies (Bootle Y.M.C.A.), improved a lot during the season and even if there were no outstanding discoveries much useful material is there.

I give here a list of the players who had the best records for the season:—

G. Williams, D. Wildblood, D. Sayer, W. Jones and G. Gill (Balfour), R. McManus and K. Jones (Bohemians) R. Marshall (Homecroft "A"), G. Holttum (I.C.I.), V. Chesham and A. Smith (Livex, Miss A. Jones and G. Exell (Wallasey Juniors).

Many other players, too numerous to mention, had records almost as good and they need not feel slighted by being omitted from the list.

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BATTLE LASTED TO THE END

CONGRATULATIONS Wavertree and Cheshire Lines, champions and runners-up respectively, and commiserations Kingsway, who had to be content with third place. What a battle it was, with final placings undecided until the final games of the season.

Wavertree deserve the honour. They are now the strongest team in the division but it took that last few weeks' strengthening signing of W. Ramsdale, from Hull, to give them just that bit extra to ensure success. Now it is look out Division 2, expect squalls next season from one of the strongest sides ever to be promoted.

Cheshire Lines' success was a triumph of team spirit. They had perhaps not the stars of the leaders but five men who played throughout and who fought for every point. Do not forget they took the brunt of it throughout the season, as every other team tried to topple them from their leading position.

BRAVE FIGHTERS

And now to bottom, with a word of encouragement to Westfield and Dunlop Both lost their regular Nos. 1 and 2 during the season ; both found difficulty in fielding teams but it is great credit to both that their spirits never sank. They honoured their fixtures and gave a brave fight despite their handicaps. We wish them well and know that if their determination persists they will soon be deservedly challenging to recover their lost status.

What about the other battling seven we talked of earlier. Two of them, I am afraid, fell away disappointingly. Burlington had team difficulties and their reserves could not fill the bill. M. Morison may not be with them next season which will cause them further worry.

Lucem, of course, depend on their Nos. 1 and 2. If either are absent or slip up, the game is lost. A most unbalanced side although having the foundations to be amongst the best.

St. Joseph's plodded on well, shorn of real hope when they also lost two regulars but with good strength reserves

they commanded a respectable position and will present a strong challenge again next season.

Victoria Park suffered more close defeats than most, which shows that though they missed the boat they might well have caught it. They too will make a strong bid next season.

Balfour improved considerably as the season progressed, and included Cheshire Lines among their end-of-season "scalps." Jim Dickenson and his men have been feeling their way before "Balfourising" the division next season, which means putting a Balfour team on top and keeping it there.

The Police are quite happy about their league position but know it can be improved on next time, while Oakhill are pleased at the way their new recruits have rescued them from their bad start and maintained for them the record of being the oldest continuous serving Division 3 member.

D. M. SINGER

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Slipped to Relegation

SO another season has finished and is already passing into history. The laurels have been won by Thorndale and the hard working boys from the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. At the last Wallasey Juniors gained a couple of points at the expense of Domestic Mission, but Holly Mount gradually slipped backwards to complete the season in the relegation zone.

While the sole survivors of last season's fourth division, Port Sunlight O.B. and Waterloo Dock, have risen three places in the table compared with last year, the teams who came from higher divisions,—Rafters B, Aigburth and Domestic Mission—have not had a successful season. I look forward to seeing you all pressing on next season and returning to a higher division.

NOT EASY TASK

Mark you though, your path will not be easy as I can visualize the steady Osterley side and the keen tennis players from Bohemians making great efforts to advance together, with renewed efforts from Wavertree Community Centre. This latter club obtained three 7—3 wins and a commendable draw with Waterloo Dock within six weeks, which made sure of their steering clear of being wooden spoonists.

In similar vein to Wavertree's efforts it has been noticeable that many clubs enjoyed closer matches towards the end of the season. The point I made some months ago of the final score not reflecting the true picture of a game has been proved on many occasions.

An example of this was the game at Thorndale when the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. had the opportunity of pipping their rivals for the championship. Seven sets needed a third game to reach a decision, of which three were very close affairs.

A point which I noticed was that, by agreement the home team chose the first match—this, I think, was fatal on the part of the Y.M.C.A. Their captain may not be very experienced, but this fact, together with knowing in what order to play matches, are faults which many teams do not seem to appreciate.

I know of many matches lost by what may only be termed poor captainship. If the "skippers" would only study their opposition before making their selection, especially if it is the first match of the evening, then the whole aspect of the game may be changed. There is no necessity to start with the respective No. 1's, any player may take the first match.

The important thing is which player can start his team off on a winning note, as the moral effect is shown in the play of the games that follow.

Best wishes for an enjoyable close season.

AFTER THE GAME . . .

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BEST FORM CAME LATE ON

YOUNG men who catch the eye as good prospects are McClean (Cadwa), Hughes and Ferguson (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.) I hope they continue to show their early promise.

The Y.M.C.A. team have shown their best form late in the season with a much changed team they have gained 12 of their last 16 points. Rodrigues has had an excellent season and has the best match record, by one set over Hughes. Young of the poker face, makes worthy opposition.

The fifth young man is Des Loughrey, who was recently capped for the Old Narkovians and is being watched by the Kirkdale Homes as a prospective No. 6.

Space compels the brevity of the following remarks, which in the main, exclude the last couple of matches.

AU REVOIR

To Linnet congratulations on an excellent beginning to their club's history we say au revoir to good friends and worthy opponents for we all hope to catch you up soon. They also reached the semi-final of the Hyde Cup together with Cadwa, giving our division two out of four semi-finalists from eight competing divisions.

To the following also our congratulations—Cadwa—Hyde Cup finalists; Nora Markson (Harold House)—Don Foulis Cup semi-finalist; Crafter (Cadwa)—Maxwell Fyffe Cup quarter finalist when he had to scratch.

Regional tournament winners:—South-McSorley beat Green (both Linnet); East; Ivy Crafter (Cadwa); Morris (Cadwa) beat Cohen (Harold House); North; L. Guy (ex taxes), E. Smitton (English Electric) closed Singles

To Taxes without a win but a full team for every game; to Ivy Crafter our leading lady with 16 sets from 34, and the following players who are their club's leading set scorers.

In brackets are the number of players called on during the season:—

Aigburth Meths. (9), Topping 17 sets from 34; Anfield B (8), Murphy 27 from 40; Bootle Y.M.C.A. (12), Stewart 21—36; Cadwa (9), Morris 34—36; Elm Hall Drive (6), Ellison 24—40; English Electric (12), Froud 28—40; Harold House (8), Vronofsky 21—38; Linacre (5), Larkin 28—40;

Linnet (7), Mason 35—40; Liverpool Y.M.C.A. (11), Rodrigues 21—38; Taxes (10), Miss Campbell 13—40; Victoria Park A (8), Cope 21—38.

I suggest you pick our Oscar from the above.

Linacre's five players have the flavour of a record as they have been together as long as I can remember.

Short and Mason (Linnet) were the only players to win at least one set each match. Top scoring game and set was between Cowin (Victoria Park) and Cohen (Harold House) 21—17, 19—21, 33—31. We had 23 ever—presents from 105 players called on.

My thanks to Ivy Sturgeon (Linnet) and Reg. Grey (Anfield) for their assistance in inter-divisional games. Our ladies lost heavily at Wallasey. Our men lost 7—3 with two last-minute reserves in. Special mention to Murphy (Anfield), winner of two sets. We hope to reverse these decisions in the return games !?

I have endeavoured to give you news of all and put you all in the news. I have enjoyed writing, I hope you have enjoyed reading.

Death of Dave Class

MANY members of the league, especially those who knew him from pre-war days, will have learned with regret of the death of Dave Class, former secretary of the Anfield Club.

Before the war Dave was one of our most prominent players and his unassuming manner also made him one of the most popular. He was then a member of the old City Club and in league matches and tournaments was one of the most difficult players to beat.

A few years ago he took over the Anfield secretaryship. Ill-health compelled him to relinquish the post and also to give up the game, but not his interest in the league. Although for the past two years he had been desperately ill he kept in continual touch through his friends and the Digest.

May we offer our deepest sympathy to Dave's wife and his family.

R.A.F.A. are Worthy Champions

AT the close of the first season of the Wirral Fifth Division I make no apology for dwelling upon the outstanding performances of clubs and players.

First we will take a look at the league table and offer our congratulations to R.A.F.A., who are worthy champions. The R.A.F. put up a great fight but just failed to catch the champions, and have to content themselves with second place.

Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. are third and are to be complimented on the fact that they have called on only six players all season.

It is interesting to note that last season these three teams were at the top of the Fourth Division of the West Region in the reverse order. They have proved that their promotion was well merited.

GREAT FINISH

The next five teams, Hoylake, Cosco, Thorndale, Co-op and Burrowdale in that order, who six weeks ago were only separated by one point, have since spread themselves out and are spaced at fairly regular intervals from 26 points down to 20. A grandstand finish to the season was put up by Clarendon who took eight points from their last five matches. Thingwall collected six of their total of eleven points from their last six matches, which suggests that their fortunes were changing.

St. Peter's and St. Joseph's, at the bottom of the table, were, unfortunately, always at the receiving end. They will find, no doubt, that a season in a lower division will enable them to re-establish themselves.

Of individual performances in cup and league matches combined, the following are outstanding and based on a minimum of 20 sets played :-

T. White (R.A.F.) 92 per cent ; E. Morris (R.A.F.A.) 84 ; J. Finch (Birkenhead Y.M.C.A.) 77 ; J. Brown (Cosco) 76 ; A. Rivett (Birkenhead Y.M.C.A.) 76 ; D. Lind (Thorndale) 73 ; A. Jenkins (Clarendon) 73 ; W. Iowe (R.A.F.A.) 72 ; G. Dunks (R.A.F.) 71 ; F. Nichol (R.A.F.A.) 70.

The West Region tournament was as usual a great success, due largely to the organising genius of Harry Holland. Fifth Wirral players were successful in several events as can be seen from a report elsewhere.

I am happy to say that the Hyde Cup has once more returned to Wirral, thanks to the R.A.F. by beating Cadwa 7-3 at R.A.F.A. Club, Birkenhead. The match was well supported from both sides of the Mersey, and many happy re-unions took place. Skipper Tom White strongly denies that he has had an extra large mantlepiece on order for some weeks to support the cup.

Great interest has been created by the friendly matches which have taken place between the two Fifth Divisions. It is hoped that these will receive official recognition for future seasons.

Most of us will now be looking forward to an unofficial summer season of friendly matches which will continue until the heat wave comes—we hope.

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Homecroft ...	22	16	4	2	152	68	34
Balfour "A" ..	22	15	4	3	134	86	33
Rafters "A" ..	22	13	6	3	141	79	29
Oakhill	22	12	6	4	126	94	28
Rafters	22	12	7	3	129	91	27
African Oil...	22	10	11	1	106	114	21
15th Crosby ..	22	7	12	3	87	133	17
Anfield	22	7	13	2	90	130	16
Bibby's	22	5	17	0	76	144	10
Acacia.....	22	2	18	2	64	156	6
B'head Y.M. ..	22	0	20	2	49	171	2

Second Division

Balfour "B" ..	22	20	1	1	161	59	41
Livex	22	18	3	1	145	75	37
H'croft "A" ..	22	17	5	0	138	82	34
Bohemians ..	22	14	6	2	143	77	30
H'lake Y.M. ..	22	9	7	6	114	106	24
Bootle Y.M....	22	9	9	4	110	110	22
I.C.J.	22	8	11	3	109	111	19
Oakhill "A" ..	22	6	10	6	101	119	18
Anfield "A" ..	22	6	14	2	88	132	14
Wallasey Jnrs	22	6	16	0	89	131	12
St. Michaels	22	3	16	3	70	150	9
B'hd. Y.M. 'A'	22	2	20	0	52	168	4

Third Division

W'tree C.C. ..	22	17	2	3	154	66	37
Cheshire Lines	22	17	3	2	153	67	36
Kingsway ...	22	16	2	4	147	73	36
St. Joseph's ..	22	13	6	3	131	89	29
Victoria Park ..	22	11	6	5	134	86	27
Burlington ...	22	8	6	8	118	102	24
Balfour "C" ..	22	8	8	6	117	103	22
Lucem.....	22	7	10	5	113	107	19
L.P.A.S.	22	6	12	4	87	133	16
Oakhill "B" ..	22	5	15	2	81	139	12
Westfield ...	22	2	19	1	43	177	5
Dunlop	22	0	21	1	42	178	1

Fourth Division

Thorndale ...	22	20	1	1	182	38	41
L'pool Y.M. ..	22	18	3	1	158	62	37
P/S'light O.B.	22	14	4	4	143	77	32
W'loo Dock ..	22	14	4	4	133	87	32
Osterley ...	22	14	6	2	123	97	30
Rafters "B" ..	22	11	7	4	120	100	26
Bohemians A ..	22	7	12	3	98	122	17
Aigburth.....	22	7	14	1	91	129	15
W'tree CC A ..	22	6	15	1	84	136	13
D'tic Miss...	22	4	16	2	76	144	10
Holly Mount ..	22	4	17	1	76	144	9
W'sey Jnrs A ..	22	1	21	0	36	184	2

Fifth Division (Liverpool)

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Linnets	22	22	0	0	162	58	44
Cadwa	22	17	2	3	157	63	37
Anfield "B" ..	22	11	5	6	129	91	28
Linacre	22	10	4	8	126	94	28
E'lish Electric	22	11	7	4	122	98	26
Victoria P'A' ..	22	8	7	7	110	110	23
L'pool Y.M. A ..	22	7	11	4	101	119	18
H'old House ..	22	6	11	5	104	116	17
Elm H/Drive ..	22	7	12	3	91	129	17
Bootle Y.M. A ..	22	5	12	5	94	126	15
A'rth Meths. ..	22	1	17	4	59	161	6
Taxes	22	0	17	5	65	155	5

Fifth Division (Wirral)

RAFA (B'hd ..	22	19	1	2	159	61	40
R.A.F. (WK) ..	22	18	1	3	173	47	39
B'hd. Y.M. Jn ..	22	16	3	3	150	70	35
H'lake Y.M. A ..	22	12	7	3	117	103	27
Cosco	22	11	9	2	116	104	24
T'dale "A" ...	22	8	8	6	110	110	22
B'hd. Co-op ..	22	9	10	3	106	114	21
Burrowdale ..	22	9	11	2	104	116	20
Claremount ..	22	6	11	5	98	122	17
Thingwall ...	22	3	14	5	85	135	11
St. Peters ...	22	3	18	1	63	157	7
St. Joseph's A	22	0	21	1	39	181	1

NORTH REGIONAL

Litherland ..	22	21	1	0	183	37	42
Bath Street...	22	16	2	4	150	70	36
Lofters	22	16	4	2	143	77	34
E'lish Elec. A ..	22	12	5	5	135	85	29
Burlington A ..	22	12	8	2	120	100	26
Brenka	22	10	9	3	120	100	23
Littlewoods ..	22	9	10	3	109	111	21
W'loo Dk. A ..	22	9	13	0	107	113	18
W'loo Park ..	22	8	12	2	102	118	18
W'breck M'r. ..	22	4	17	1	52	168	9
Catholic Met ..	22	3	18	1	57	163	7
Lofters "A" ..	22	0	21	1	42	178	1

ANNUAL RIVER

on bsard

ROYAL

on WEDNESDAY,

Leave Liverpool 7-30

Return " " 10-30

DANCING TO REG. EDWARD

COMPETITIONS

TICKETS

Apply to your Club Secretary or to Mr. W

AGUE TABLES

WOMENS'—Division I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Rafters	22	19	1	2	151	69	40
Balfour	22	18	1	3	168	52	39
Bibby's	22	17	3	2	162	58	36
Bootle C.D.	22	15	5	2	142	78	32
Oakhill	22	10	8	4	128	92	24
Aigburth	22	10	10	2	102	118	22
Anfield	22	10	12	0	102	118	20
Homecroft	22	5	13	4	98	122	14
Littlewoods	22	5	15	2	73	147	12
Cheshire Lines ..	22	5	16	1	76	144	11
Rafters "A"	22	4	15	3	70	150	11
W'tree C.C.	22	0	19	3	48	172	3

WOMENS'—Division II.

Bohemians	22	20	0	2	188	32	42
Linnetts	22	19	1	2	187	33	40
Beauclair	22	14	3	5	144	76	33
Leyfield	22	15	5	2	150	70	32
Brenka	22	11	6	5	129	91	27
Osterley	22	9	9	4	105	115	22
Lucem	22	8	11	3	109	111	19
D'tic Miss.	22	6	14	2	87	133	14
L'woods "A"	22	5	14	3	80	140	13
I.C.I.	22	4	16	2	62	158	10
*E'lish Elec.	22	4	16	2	52	168	10
Port Sunlight ..	22	1	21	0	27	193	2

* Resigned February, 1952.

EAST REGIONAL

R.A.F.A. (L'l ..	22	21	0	1	193	27	43
Bohemians B ..	22	19	1	2	168	52	40
A'can Oil 'A' ..	22	16	4	2	153	67	34
Balfour "D" ..	22	14	5	3	137	83	31
Anfield "C" ..	22	9	10	3	114	106	21
Vagabonds	22	7	12	3	83	137	17
Layfield	22	6	12	4	84	136	16
RAF M'ment ..	22	6	12	4	84	136	16
Osterly "A" ..	22	4	14	4	81	139	12
B'mians "C" ..	22	5	15	2	76	144	12
Old Xaverian ..	22	3	14	5	81	139	11
Anfield "D" ..	22	5	16	1	66	154	11

SOUTH REGIONAL I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Tech. S'dents ..	22	21	0	1	174	46	43
Livex "A"	22	16	4	2	149	71	34
Beauclair	22	15	5	2	141	79	32
Cadwa "A"	22	16	6	0	135	85	32
St. M'aels 'A' ..	22	12	7	3	136	84	27
V'toria Pk, B ..	22	10	10	2	118	102	22
Linnet "A"	22	10	10	2	107	113	22
Lucem "A"	22	10	11	1	115	105	21
W'tree CC B	22	6	15	1	84	136	13
A'burth "A"	22	5	15	2	76	144	12
C'hire Lines A ..	22	2	18	2	61	159	6
Deaf Inst.	22	0	22	0	24	196	0

SOUTH REGIONAL II.

Panto	22	22	0	0	198	22	44
T/S'dents 'A' ..	22	17	3	2	153	67	36
Lussac	22	17	5	0	152	68	34
RAFA (L) A	22	16	5	1	145	75	33
L'l Y.M. "B" ..	22	15	6	1	152	68	31
W'tree Lab.	22	8	11	3	99	121	19
Beauclair 'A' ..	22	8	12	2	93	127	18
Linnet "B"	22	6	12	4	90	130	16
V'hall Sports ..	22	4	16	2	64	156	10
Linnet "C"	22	3	16	3	56	164	9
C'hire lines B ..	22	2	17	3	66	154	7
Leyfield "A" ..	22	3	18	1	52	168	7

WEST REGIONAL I.

RF St Anne's ..	22	21	1	0	184	36	42
Creep Inn	22	17	3	2	156	64	36
W'sey Motor	22	11	6	5	116	104	27
S.S. M/Paul	22	10	6	6	126	94	26
Cosco "A"	22	12	8	2	119	101	26
P'ton Meths.	22	9	7	6	113	107	24
Port S'light	22	9	8	5	116	104	23
Thorndale 'B' ..	22	9	10	3	108	112	21
Creep Inn 'A' ..	22	7	14	1	90	130	15
Burrowdale B ..	22	6	13	3	83	137	15
Claremont A	22	3	18	1	59	161	7
B'dale "A"	22	1	21	0	50	170	2

WEST REGIONAL II.

H'lake Y.M. B ..	22	20	0	2	193	27	42
B'hd. B/Club ..	22	17	2	3	153	67	37
RAFA (B) A	22	17	4	1	149	71	35
St Anne's 'A' ..	22	15	4	3	154	66	33
B'h Co-op A	22	13	8	1	121	99	27
Y.W.C.A.	22	10	8	4	113	107	24
P/S'light "A" ..	22	8	11	3	104	116	19
Thingwall A	22	7	13	2	99	121	16
St. Anne's 'B' ..	22	4	16	2	68	152	10
Woodchurch	22	3	16	3	56	164	9
St. John's	22	3	18	1	65	155	7
*B'd B/C'b A ..	22	2	19	1	45	175	5

* Resigned March, 1952.

ERDANCE CRUISE

on board the

YAL IRIS

AY, 7th MAY, 1952

30 Leave Seacombe 7-40

30 Return " 10-40

EDWARDS AND HIS ORCHESTRA

BAR :: BUFFET

TICKETS 4/- each

to Mr. W. Stamp, 3 Farndale Close, Liverpool.

Finals were Anti-Climax

A. C. Taylor of Litherland, became the first holder of the Maxwell Fyfe Cup when he beat R. McMullen (Rafter) in the final. McMullen was conceding two points in each game but this handicap made little difference to the result.

For Taylor the final was something of an anti-climax to the semi-final when he had to fight hard to beat the back marker, Roy Jones, of Homecroft. To give Taylor 14 points in each game was a formidable task and it is greatly to Jones' credit that he took one game from the young Litherland player.

Similarly the final of the D. M. Foulis Cup between Miss J. Lloyd, of Bootle C.D., on the forward limit of 20, and Miss Andree Jones, of Wallasey Juniors, the back marker, was nothing like as hard as were the two semi-finals. In each case they went to three games, and each was only won by a narrow margin.

Miss Lloyd used her handicap to great advantage in the final ; so much so that Andree Jones found herself fighting an almost hopeless battle. The results were :—

Maxwell Fyfe Cup.

Semi-finals : A. C. Taylor (14) beat R. Jones (Scr.) 31—17, 37—39, 31—16 ; R. McMullen (12) beat J. Brown (11) 31—29, 21—31, 31—27.

Final : Taylor beat McMullen 31—20, 31—20.

D. M. Foulis Cup.

Semi-finals : Miss J. Lloyd (20) beat Miss J. A. Preston (16) 30—22, 31—28, 31—24 ; Miss A. Jones (Scr.) beat Miss N. Marksori (20) 31—29, 28—31, 31—29.

Final : Miss Lloyd beat Miss Jones 31—20, 31—13.

A very puzzled spectator gave a sigh of relief when Mr. C. E. Bartholomew presented his cup to Rafter after they had beaten Bibby's at Lark Lane.

Up to that point he had been wondering why Bibby's had not raised a protest when apparently the same girl played against them four times during the evening.

Those May twins certainly look very much alike !

Editorial Comment

Continued

Handicap singles. During the earlier rounds eliminate journeys for a single set by playing at a neutral club in groups of eight players down to one survivor. This means there would be a chance of a full evening's table tennis for some players, while the losers in the first round would no doubt be interested to follow the subsequent matches.

Handbook could have more detail restored to it apart from the essential facts of the previous season, such as information re players' performances, county honours, past winners of tournaments and championships.

We present these viewpoints to stimulate our readers to bring forward proposals of merit so that the League may be able to run even more smoothly and successfully when it commences its own programme again next October.

CLUB CHATTER

CLUB secretaries have now received the appeal from the E.T.T.A. regarding the £1 guarantee for the staging of the 1954 World Championships in London. Mr. Stamp has already received promise of support from many clubs but will those who have not yet replied please do so within the next few days.

Congratulations to Tommy Larkin, of Linacre, whose wife has presented him with a bonnie baby girl.

Bill Alcock, one of Hoylake's most consistent players this season, joined the khaki-clad team at Aldershot last month. Could be that the proverbial field marshal's baton in his haversack will be shaped like a table tennis bat.

Record Smashed in Final Match

CONGRATULATIONS to Rafters and Bohemians on winning the championship of their respective divisions. Bohemians only dropped two points, both against Linnet, who are the runners-up. The return match between the two clubs, which again ended in a draw, was as close and exciting as their first clash.

Elsie Palmer avenged her defeats of the first match by beating May Alcock and Moya Pattison, but it was unfortunate for Linnet that Joyce Tippets was unable to repeat her success, although it says much for the Bohemians Vi Grey and G. Barton who were responsible for checking her.

Linnet's only defeat was at the hands of Beauclair who finished third, and I shall be surprised if Beauclair do not go up for the medals next season. They will not be allowed to relax though as the two relegated teams—Cheshire Lines and Wavertree—are both excellent fighting sides who have been unfortunate not to record more wins. Without a doubt they will not be happy until they return to the first division.

GOOD DEBUT

Brenka, who have done so well in their first season and should get some serious practice during the close season, together with Lucem and Leyfield, will also be dangerous contestants.

I was sorry to learn that English Electric had to retire and were not able to fulfil all their fixtures.

Rafters A, who have just escaped relegation, were fortunate that Joan Brennand and Kay Rumjahn returned to their side for the last few and very vital matches.

Rafter's unbeaten record was smashed when they visited Bootle for their last match of the season and lost 6-4. Beryl Waterson ended a successful season by accounting for both Bluey May and Olwen Southall. One of the best games of the match resulted in a win for J. Lloyd (winner of the Foulis Cup) against Pat Grundy after she had beaten Olive Horner.

Lil Jenkins, who had many surprising results to her credit, beat Pinkie May, and Lil Upton did her share by beating Olive Horner.

Incidentally it was Bootle's last night at Knowsley Rd. and the occasion

was not allowed to pass without a celebration made all the sweeter by their win. The Rafters girls were invited to join in and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Best of luck Bootle in your search for a new venue.

Balfour, who have held the championship several seasons take second place. It's a great pity that Balfour have not got one or two up and coming young girls. The excellent playing facilities and experience of their players would no doubt in time help to ease the task of the Liverpool selection committee.

It must have been a great disappointment to Oakhill that an attack of flu deprived them of the services of Ivy Crafter in their cup semi-final match against Rafters as unfortunately they were also without Doreen Dancaster. The result was that Rafters, who have looked forward to a much stiffer task, had an easy win. Undoubtedly the best match of the evening was between Olwen Southall and Mary Rubert which the Oakhill player won. Attack and defence were cleverly mixed by both players.

In the other semi-final Bibby's, although without Lil Rimmer, proved too strong for Anfield. Ita Howley started well for Anfield by beating Joyce Mitchell in two straight, both players adopting a similar game.

I was very impressed by Bibby's 16 year old reserve Margaret Perry, (who in her first match) played like a veteran before going down to Nan Lamb, and received a great ovation from both sides after beating D. Greensmith. Bibby's certainly believe in getting 'em young, and receive every encouragement from their secretary and mentor Cyril Smith.

The general opinion is that play, particularly in the first division, is slowly improving, and there are several players who with more concentration, team consciousness and, last but not least, serious practice during the close season should be rewarded.

Littlewood's in particular, are slowly developing into a very useful side all their players happiest when defending and each has scored several individual successes.

SAINTS PROUD RECORD

By N. H. Holland.

SALUTE to St. Anne's. Give a cheer for the champions who never lost their grip of the leadership from the very first week, despite forfeiting two points to Creep Inn A recently in circumstances about which perhaps, the less said the better.

At no time was their supremacy seriously challenged and the team can be justly proud of their splendid record. Good luck to them in the Forrest Cup.

About 200 spectators saw some excellent play in the region tournament finals, particularly in the singles events. The battle between Tom White and Ken Davenport was a thriller—"Good enough for the Philharmonic" was one onlooker's comment.

IN TOP GRADE

White's all-round advance since last season places him well up in the top grade of league players. Further honours cannot long be delayed if he maintains this rate of progress.

The principal results were:—Men's Singles, semi-finals: T. White (R.A.F.) beat F. Kelly (St. Anne's) 21—11, 21—9; K. Davenport (R.A.F.A.) beat J. W. Fishburn (R.A.F.) 27—7, 22—20. Final: White beat Davenport 22—20, 21—12.

Women's Singles, final: Mrs. G. M. Sharpe (Burrowdale) beat Mrs. P. O'Connell (Thorndale) 12—21, 21—12, 22—20.

Junior Singles, final: C. B. Hatton (Prenton M.) beat I. Mackie (Hoylake) 18—21, 21—16, 21—11.

Youth's Singles, final: J. Finch (B'head Y.M.C.A.) beat H. Wootton (B'head Y.M.C.A.) 21—17, 21—15.

Men's Consolation, final: J. Brown (Cosco) beat K. Peters (Thingwall) 21—15, 21—18.

Women's Consolation, final: Miss E. A. Kean (Burrowdale) beat Miss P. Heaps (Thingwall) 21—16, 16—21, 21—10.

Youth's Consolation, final: A. Rivett (B'head Y.M.C.A.) beat P. Quirke (St. Anne's) 18—21, 21—11, 21—12.

Meritorious performances in recent league matches include:—

D. Troake (S.S. Mary & Paul) beat M. Phillips (Wallasey Motors) 21—18, 6—21, 21—18; L. T. Jones (Burrowdale A.) beat A. Jones (Prenton M.) 13—21,

Continued at the foot of next column

HOYLAKE TRUE CHAMPIONS

By H. P. Harkness.

THE season's battles are over, the dust of conflict has nearly settled and all that remains is to applaud the efforts of the successful teams and players.

First to receive our acclamations are Hilton, Tottey, Mackie, Alcock, Price and Langley who made up the winning team, Hoylake B. They started like champions, continued in the same strain, and finished the season in true championship fashion by beating their three nearest rivals, Birkenhead Boys Club, St. Anne's A and R.A.F. Assn. A, 9—1, 10—0, and 9—1 respectively.

Next, the runners-up, Birkenhead Boys' Club, mainly represented by Gorman, Kelly, Gouldson, McKeown and Simmonds, who kept up with Hoylake point for point throughout the season but couldn't match the latter's storming finish.

And finally a round of applause for each of the following:—

A. Tottey (Hoylake) who, as top of the individual merit list, is the outstanding player of the division.

E. Gaunt (Thingwall) whose great improvement brought him from nowhere to second place.

W. Bevan (R.A.F.A.), L. Kelly (B.B.C.) and F. McKeown (B.B.C.) in that order, for occupying the other three places in the list.

Ian Mackie (Hoylake) for winning all his sets and reaching the final of the West Region Tournament.

R. Berry (Hoylake) for being the division's best reserve player. He won whenever he was called upon to play.

Mr. N. H. Holland for organising the West Region tournament—surely the best ever, and

Your scribe, for naming the winning team in his first article.

The last named has enjoyed recording your exploits this season and looks forward to meeting a good muster from the division at our final fling—the Closed League Championships.

21—17, 22—20; W. Jones (S.S. Mary & Paul) beat G. C. Dixon (Thorndale B) 24—22, 21—18; Miss E. Kean (Burrowdale B) beat Mrs. I. Caley (Thorndale B) 21—19, 21—12; Miss M. Loughlin (Cosco A) beat J. Barnes (Port Sunlight) 21—18, 21—19; Mrs. M. Lindley (Burrowdale B) beat W. J. Collis (Thorndale B) 17—21, 21—12, 21—15.

Panto's Amazing Record

IN October I stuck my neck out as a prophet, naming my three probables for honours. Events have to some extent justified my forecast.

Technical Students have walked away with their division; Beauclair are but little behind them, and Linnet "A," short of their No. 1 Gerry McSorley, are extremely well placed.

I think you will all join me in congratulating Ernie Ellis and his colleagues on their grand performance. Also Livex and Beauclair on their drawn out battle for second place, a battle not decided until the final match.

I feel that when the Deaf Institute line up in the lower division next season they will carry with them the best wishes of every player in the South, for a more sporting team cannot be found throughout the League and in South 2 they may meet with more success.

ADVERSITY OVERCOME

Aigburth A deserve congratulating. After a disastrous pointless season last year, followed by a wholesale loss of players, they came back this year to finish in a comfortable mid-table position. A true triumph over adversity.

In South 2 it has certainly been Panto's year. Their amazing record shows their vast superiority over their rivals and it will be interesting to watch their progress in a higher sphere.

Lussac and Technical Students A staged an interesting second place struggle and great credit goes to both teams for their efforts.

At the other end of the table Linnet C staged a remarkable recovery to avoid the wooden spoon. After winning the first match of the season they went until March 10 before getting their second win, but they followed this by visiting R.A.F.A. to sustain a narrow defeat and then beat their companions in misfortune, Cheshire Lines B. Two wins from the last three matches will give them heart for next season's campaign.

Linnet's "hopes for the future", of whom I wrote earlier in the season, appear to be getting into their stride.

A word of commiseration to the South's two teams from Cheshire Lines. Maybe next season will bring more success.

It is always the top and bottom teams who come in for comment at the season's end yet so many more are in the mid-section of the tables. These comfortably placed teams are the backbone of the League. Usually they arouse neither criticism nor wild enthusiasm, yet we are all pleased to have played them and we look forward to meeting them all again next season.

To conclude let me say that this has been as pleasant a season as any in my memory. Although composed mainly of new clubs the relative standard has been high.

Two of our clubs reached the the last eight of the Hyde Cup, namely Technical Students and Victoria Park B, each losing 7-3 to a Fifth Division club.

May you all enjoy your summer and play even better next season.

UNBEATEN IN FIRST SEASON

THIS is naturally the appropriate moment to look back over the season, but first I want to take the opportunity of thanking all those who helped to make the regional tournament a success.

Firstly my thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Scraggs, of Cadwa, for their invaluable assistance in preparing the tables, lighting and other things. Secondly to Mr. W. Stamp, our organising secretary, and to Messrs Hughes, Williams and Loughrey for representing the Management Committee.

Thanks also to Mr. Jack Neill, the North Region secretary, for acting as referee, and last but not least to all the players who entered and so made the tournament the success it was.

For any who have not heard the results I take this opportunity of congratulating the winners and runners up, namely J. Morris (Cadwa), winner of the men's singles, and M. Cohen (Harold House), runner-up; and Mrs I. Crafter (Cadwa), winner of the women's singles, and her runner-up Miss M. Willcox (Osterley).

Fulfilled Confidence

In the league things have turned out much as I anticipated. I tipped R.A.F.A. to be champions and champions they are. Let me congratulate them on going through the season undefeated and on winning promotion in their first season in the league.

Bohemians B are to be admired for their great fight for the championship. It was only in the closing stages of the season that the issue was settled when R.A.F.A. beat them 9-1.

African Oil A, who finished third, definitely missed A. V. Wilkinson. He would not have made any difference to the final placings, but they would have had a few more points.

Balfour D and Anfield C did fairly well, as is expected of teams from those clubs.

A word of praise for P. Kelly, Old Xaverians' No. 1. He played in all his team's matches and won 79% of his games. When I say that of 77 sets his team won in 21 matches he gained 33 you will realise what a valuable contribution he made to his team.

The surprise team was to my mind R.A.F. Movements. They gained only

two points from their first nine matches but went on to take another dozen points.

Yet their success in the latter half of the season was gained with more or less the same players.

Now for some leading scorers. T. Partington (Balfour D) heads the Nos. 1 and 2 with 88%. A. V. Wilkinson (A.O.M.) comes next with 87½%, with T. Boden (R.A.F.A.) third with 86% and T. Brown (Bohemians) fourth with 83%.

Of the lower players J. Robinson and R. Redmond (R.A.F.A.) are joint leaders with 97½%, having won 41 out of 42 sets. They are followed by V. Jankinson (Bohemians) 83½%, K. Edgar (A.O.M.) 80%, A. Quiggin (R.A.F.A.) 78½% and G. Weaver (A.O.M.) and T. Gee (Bohemians) 75% each.

I would like to appeal to all secretaries. If you are in office next season help your regional secretary all you can by sending as much news as you can.

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Litherland's Fine Record

DESPITE our having four more matches this season the final curtain seems to have fallen abruptly on our league competition. It is astonishing to find that so many friendly games have been arranged, some of which have already been played.

Looking at the final league tables it is interesting to study the fortunes of the old and new clubs, and it is impressive to see that two of the new clubs occupy the foremost placings.

Litherland Boys' Club have made history which will not often be repeated. To win the Region championship, reach the semi-final of the Hyde Cup provide the winner of the Maxwell Fyfe Cup and have an unbeaten No. 1 player, all in a first season, is a splendid record and merits our warmest applause.

WELL PLEASED

Lofters are well pleased with their performance. Losing three of their first four games they afterwards lost only one of the remaining 18. The signing of Mrs. Waterson put them on the road to success. There is a story of four men and two girls. Miss Lamb proved a capable reserve when called on.

Bath Street, the runners-up, are deservedly congratulated. They were the only team to beat Litherland; yet before the beginning of the season they were in danger of disbandment. Losing the valuable service of Bill Kinraid they signed on Sid Hurst who proved to be a big asset in the club's successful season. Here again we have the example of a good player turning an average team into a match-winning combination.

English Electric and Burlington fell below expectations. In the case of the former it can be attributed to internal changes to some extent, but Burlington's failure still mystifies me. That they had the necessary talent is undisputed.

Brenka were hard hit when Brian Fenerty had to go to National Service, and they also lost for a few weeks Kevin Fenerty. Throughout the season they have needed a good No. 5 and in those circumstances their final position reflects credit on Cantwell, Harper and Walton.

Littlewoods, other newcomers, began

badly but once they started to take the game seriously they became a menace to the strongest sides.

Waterloo Park had a much better second half of the season. Harry Havard was once again their star performer, and in view of their bad start can be said to have finished the season well satisfied.

The last three positions are all held by new teams—Warbreck Moor, who will have benefitted by their experience; Catholic Metro, voted the most popular side in the region, and like Lofters A had to play women in their team. It is no use disguising the fact that they were not equal to the task of meeting men players.

A final comment will I hope be of benefit to certain players and teams. Firstly, the service rule is still being openly ignored; secondly, the temptation to win at all costs is the sure road to defeat; and thirdly, play each match as it comes on the calendar, counting your chickens before they are hatched inevitably ends in disappointment.

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Just Not Good Enough

A glance at the final league tables shows that the form of the men's teams was a little disappointing this season, bearing out my remarks at the beginning that although the teams were strong enough to earn the respect of all opponents they were not quite strong enough to hit the highlights.

The first team had again to acknowledge the superiority of Bolton and Manchester and until some players come along to oust our pre-war stars this situation is likely to continue.

The second team's position is not as bad as it seems. They recorded a win over the league leaders and twice held the runners-up to 6-4.

GOOD CLUBMEN

During the season no less than eleven players were called upon to fill the 24 places and the results proved once again that while all these players were good clubmen they were not up to the standard of inter-league games. It is hoped that such players as Exell, of Wallasey, and Taylor, of Litherland, will continue the progress shown this season and provide the nucleus for the future.

The women's team have been the most successful this season and are now awaiting a play-off for the league championship. The match will be in Liverpool and the date and venue will be announced.

It was a very exciting encounter at Littlewoods when Manchester gained their right to a play-off, Dell Wood beating Andree Jones

in the final game of the evening to give Manchester their victory.

League Tables

Division 1.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bolton A	10	9	0	1	76	24	19
Manchester A	10	8	1	1	76	24	17
Liverpool A	10	5	5	0	51	49	10
Manchester B	10	5	5	0	50	50	10
Wigan A	10	1	8	1	23	77	3
Macclesfield	10	0	9	1	24	76	1

Division 2 South

Stockport ...	8	6	2	0	51	29	12
Ellesmere P. A	8	6	2	0	47	33	12
Chester	8	4	3	1	48	32	9
Liverpool B ...	8	3	4	1	41	39	7
Ellesmere P. B	8	0	8	0	13	67	0

Women's—Division 1

Liverpool	6	4	1	1	37	23	9
Manchester	6	4	1	1	37	23	9
Blackpool	6	2	2	2	33	26	6
Bury	6	0	6	0	19	41	0

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E. SMITH NEVER LOST A SET

By J. D. Loughrey.

IT is no easy feat to go through a season of league and cup matches without tasting defeat. Yet such has been the achievement of E. Smith, of Kingsway. He played in 18 matches—15 league matches and three cup ties—and won all 36 sets, and is the only player in the League who has this distinction.

Had it not been for the fact that his club called on him to play for their first and "A" team during the season, young Ian Mackie, of Hoylake Y.M.C.A would have shared the distinction, for while playing for the "B" team in the West Region second division he won all his 36 sets, 30 in league matches and six in cup ties.

Three other players who played in at least ten matches can also claim undefeated league records. They are A. C. Taylor and L. Guy, of Litherland, who won all their 44 and 24 sets respectively and M. McGhee, of Rock Ferry St. Anne's, who won all his 30 sets.

It is impossible to give a full list of averages in the *Digest*, but in the table below are given the first three leading players in each division. They include all league and cup matches but not tournaments and each has played at least 28 sets. A full list of the season's averages will be exhibited during the Closed Championships at Dingle Vale Schools.

	Sets		Second	Sets		Third	Sets	
	First	Won %		Won %	Third		Won %	
Div. 1	E. Rumjahn (Rafters A)	49 94	J. Watts (15th Crosby)	31 91	P. Rumjahn (Rafters)	44 88		
Div. 2	V. Chesham (Livex)	43 93	R. Renshall (Homecroft A)	35 79	W. Jones (Balfour B)	36 78		
Div. 3	E. Smith (Kingsway)	36 100	D. Foulis (Lucem)	28 93	M. Brown (Kingsway)	36 85		
Div. 4	J. Gallagher (Thorndale)	45 86	R. Wiseman (Thorndale)	43 86	J. Seddon (Waterloo Dock)	39 84		
Div. 5	I. Morris (Cadwa)	56 93	W. Crafter (Cadwa)	54 84	N. Plevin (Cadwa)	31 81		
Div. 5	W. T. White (R.A.F.)	59 92	E. Morris (R.A.F.A.)	42 84	J. Finch (Y.M. Jnrs.)	40 76		
Wom. 1	K. May (Rafters)	52 96	A. Brunskill (Balfour)	39 88	O. Southall (Rafters)	46 88		
Wom. 2	M. Alcock (Bohemians)	42 91	D. Mezey (Beauclair)	34 89	G. Barton (Bohemians)	39 88		
No-th	L. Guy (Litherland)	33 97	A. C. Taylor (Litherland)	58 96	K. Fenerty (Brenka)	30 78		
South 1	A. Elder (Tech. Students)	43 86	J. McLachlan (Tech. Students)	43 79	E. Ellis (Tech Students.)	45 77		
South 2	R. K. Mason (Panto)	46 92	E. Whelan (L'pool Y.M. B.)	34 89	W. Slater (Panto)	41 85		
East	J. Redmond (R.A.F.A.)	53 94	J. Robinson (R.A.F.A.)	51 94	T. Partington (Balfour D)	42 87		
West 1	E. McGenity (St. Anne's)	46 88	M. McGhee (St. Anne's)	38 86	F. Kelly (St. Anne's)	34 85		
West 2	I. Mackie (Hoylake B)	36 100	W. Alcock (Hoylake B)	29 90	A. Tottey (Hoylake B)	43 86		

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These are your Letters

Bad Sportsmanship

SIR :—I agree about what you say regarding the necessity for a purge of the bad sporting spirit shown by a minority of table tennis players. It is not merely bad manners, it is often done to put the other team off their game and becomes most noticeable when there is a chance of a close finish.

To say the umpire's decision is final does not meet the need. In a recent match an umpire was "placed" to see that an opposing player who had beaten their No. 1 did not beat No. 2. In another match one player was allowed to serve ten consecutive serves and when the umpire was asked about it he replied, "I am the umpire; play on." And, whether right or wrong, his decision is final.

It would appear that the situation would be met by the appointment of neutral umpires. This could not be done. Again it would be too much like the "policeman" attitude. I suggest that the captain be solely responsible and answerable for the good conduct of his team. In one recent game strong action by a captain saved a situation that threatened to be ugly.

Also let offenders be reported to the League, fined or suspended.

Finally, rules, and it is over rules that these contentions occur, are like railings put round the garden. They protect it, but they are not the garden and should not be followed slavishly. They should be known exactly, not vaguely, and they should serve as a guide to the proper course of the game.—ALBERT HOWARTH (Vicar of St. John's),

A Great Night

Sir :—We have read from time to time this season various opinions on "what is wrong with Liverpool table tennis." Recently our club were privileged to stage the Hyde Cup semi-final between Cadwa and Litherland, and I am sure that the 80 people present that evening will agree that there is nothing wrong with the league if we can provide evenings of that sort.

There was a coachload of North-Enders, vociferous in support of their lads, while the cheers of the Cadwa supporters swelled until, in their moment of triumph, they even surpassed the Litherland roar.

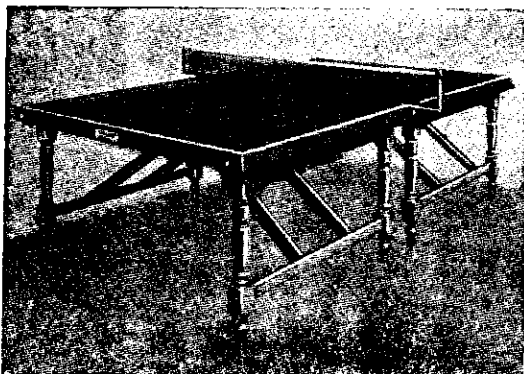
Then there were the neutrals or near-neutrals who became partisans in the course of the evening. All were packed shoulder to shoulder in the modest accommodation of our club.

The atmosphere of a big game was there — sportsmanship, endeavour and no small measure of skill abounded, and the result was in the balance until the last game.

Congratulations were showered on the winners; none more sincere than those from the losers—a memorable occasion for all concerned.

What matters if we cannot produce a world champion if we can provide enjoyment for so many and organise like this to provide keen competitive table tennis of all other grades except international? We are doing our share.

And may I say thanks to all concerned for a grand evening.—E. CAMERON (Victoria Park).



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