

NOVEMBER, 1952



Vol. III No. 1

PRICE 6<sup>d</sup>.

**TABLE  
TENNIS  
DIGEST**

*Official Magazine*

OF THE

**LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

# Table Tennis

## Digest

All correspondence must be addressed to The Editor "Table Tennis Digest," 9 Podium Rd. L'pool 13

Published on the third Thursday of each month from October to March. Subscription for season 3s 9d. post free.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

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

D. M. Foulis

W. Stamp

A. Montgomery

---

### COMMENT

AT the start of the *Digest's* third year of life, we feel that our best wishes must go to the newly-formed Wirral League, whose membership includes many players and teams until recently in our own League. It is sad to lose the regular meetings with so many good friends but the continual increase of teams on the Wirral side was creating a problem that had to be tackled radically sooner or later.

At the same time, the loss of roughly 400 subscribers has created something of a problem for the *Digest* which now faces a considerable decrease of revenue as a result, and there have also arisen certain other financial difficulties.

We are, in fact, in very urgent need of outside subscribers, and we look to members to give us their help. The *Digest* is filling a real need in the League's activities, if you find its monthly appearance is of some interest to you personally, then we believe that we have a claim for your active support. If each member could introduce one outside subscriber then the problem would be solved.

A large number of ex-players and people interested in the League may well chance to see

this issue as a result of their visit to the Merseyside Open finals. To those people we say will you consider subscribing to the *Digest*, we feel that you will find much of interest, and it will keep you in touch with all the League's activities.

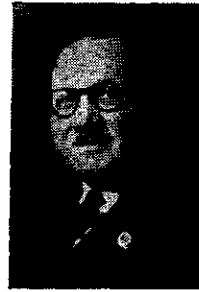
The loss of the Wirral clubs has necessitated some considerable reorganisation of the various divisions some of them appear to be weaker, especially in the regions. At the same time it is interesting to note that for some reason there have been an unusually large number of drawn matches. In the Second Division for instance, at the time of going to press, practically half the matches resulted in a draw, all of which gives bright promise of exciting evenings in store.

The forms for the Maxwell Fyfe and Foulis Cup competition should now be in your hands and we would ask our readers to note that entrants will be able to play off three or four rounds on one night, at one of ten or twelve centres, leaving only the closing rounds for a later date. This will obviate the long journey for a single set, besides providing an interesting evening even for those who may be quickly dismissed.

*From the Secretary's Desk*

## STARS FOR THE MERSEYSIDE OPEN

By W. STAMP.



WE will be in the midst of the 16th Merseyside Open Championships by the time you are reading these notes, and looking forward to a rendezvous at the Finals in the Philharmonic Hall which is without equal in the Country for the comfort it provides. We welcome some old friends, and a host of new ones who are competing for the first time, and among the former are Aubrey Simons who made such a brave showing in the Swaythling Cup matches in India after pulling a muscle.

The Merseyside singles title has always eluded him, but he is nothing if not persistent, but he will have formidable opponents in Ron Allcock and Ron Baker of Manchester together with Brian Kennedy of Yorkshire who beat him in the semi-final of the English Open in 1951. The Junior Singles event looks like being a repeat performance between Cliff Booth (Bolton) the holder, and Geoff Pullar of Oldham which was one of the highspots of the evening 2 years ago. Audrey Bates of Cardiff is defending her Women's single title to which there are many contenders including Betty Gray, Vera Rowe, Joan Beer, Shirley Jones and Betty Crews from Wales, Kathleen Best the England and Yorkshire Corbillon Cup Player making her first appearance in a Merseyside

Marjorie Cumberbatch from Birmingham, and Adele Pettifer (nee Wood), Are we to have a Liverpool player in the final stages? What about it Misses Andree Jones, Eileen Mansell and the May Twins?

There are all the ingredients for a very interesting evenings Table Tennis, and if you have not already secured your ticket, it is still not too late. You can also pay at the door.

The forms for the "Maxwell Fyfe" and "D. M. Foulis" Handicap Cup competitions for Mens and Women's singles have already been sent to your Secretary and the closing date is Monday next the 24th inst.

To avoid undue travelling, arrangements have been made for the earlier rounds to be played at convenient centres, and competitors will be allocated in groups according to the geographical location of their own Club.

This competition was started last year to encourage all our players to enter, and whilst the response was very gratifying, we hope that the new arrangements will make it even more Popular. If you haven't time to obtain a form, send your entry to me on plain paper, the entry fee is 1/6 and the particulars required are Name, Address, Club, and position in your team, including a stamped addressed envelope 1½d

# 16th MERSEYSIDE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Philharmonic Hall

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

SCORES

**JUNIOR SINGLES: FINAL (Holder C. Booth (Bolton))**

..... V. ....

**MEN'S SINGLES: SEMI-FINALS**

..... V. ....

..... V. ....

#### **FINALS**

**WOMEN'S SINGLES: Holder Miss A. Bates (Wales)**

..... V. ....

**MEN'S DOUBLES: Holders J. Leach & M. Haguenaer**

..... V. ....

#### **INTERVAL**

REFRESHMENTS SERVED IN THE FOYER.

#### **MIXED DOUBLES:**

..... V. ....

**WOMEN'S DOUBLES:**

(Holders Misses B. Grey & V. Rowe)

..... V. ....

**MEN'S SINGLES: (Holder Johnny Leach)**

..... V. ....

THE FINALISTS FOR EACH EVENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED THROUGH THE MICROPHONE, TOGETHER WITH ANY ALTERATIONS IN THE ORDER OF PLAY THAT MAY BE NECESSARY.

# We Have Some Good Prospects

YOU will notice that this season these notes are being written by a different author. John Coveney has unfortunately had to hand over reporting owing to illness at home. We all thank him for the very fair and conscientious way he has worked on our behalf.

We welcome Bohemians and Livex to the division. The latter, led by Vic Chesham, seem to be holding their own, but the Bohemians, who vary little between No. 1 and No. 5 in playing strength, are finding it heavy going.

Our only link with Wirral is through Acacia, who field a combination of the Homecroft and Acacia teams of last season, their players being Roy Jones, W. Rowan, D. Hobbs, L. Egerton and Andree Jones.

After only five weeks of matches there is no individual playing in the division regularly who is unbeaten, but African Oil Mills, who last season were struggling for revival, have not been defeated. Their success is mainly due to the return, and return to form, of Bill Pierce. He is playing exceptionally well and has only once been beaten—by W. Harris (Balfour). His victims include all three Rumjahns, who succumbed to a whirlwind of shots. We only hope Bill produces this confidence in inter-city games.

### Hypnotic Services

E. J. Rumjahn is another with a similar record, and following close behind is a gentleman who mesmerises opponents with services of extreme wretchedness—Les Davies (Balfour).

Of the young players I have noticed the following have potential ability to improve—Harris, Wilcock, N. Jones and D. Sayer (Balfour) and J. Holdsworth (Bohemians) and J. Grant (Oakhill). The last named pair would gain much benefit by careful coaching and young David Ferguson (Rafters) will without doubt suddenly burst into the limelight after a few years in our division.

There are only one or two others, such as Townsend (Balfour), left in this category; the remainder seem to be well seasoned campaigners who have long past their peak and have started "back-peddalling." I only hope there

are more youngsters playing in some A and B teams who will blossom forth in the future.

To add variety and a touch of colour, the division claims the presence of Andree Jones (Acacia) and Eileen Mansell (Balfour), playing No. 5 for their respective teams. These two ladies have inflicted defeats on over half their "mere male" opponents and must be congratulated on their moral courage and ability.

Since the advent of the new playing order there has been a levelling of team strength. Clubs playing sound Nos. 3, 4 and 5 seem to be the most successful. Although African Oil and Balfour have a good lead, I shall expect a battle for league honours among about four teams.

Our division is the showroom of the League. What we do and how we play is watched and imitated by the other divisions. I want you all to set a high standard—in dress, table manners and in play.

Good luck, and practice to a set plan—aimless practice is useless.

## for Table Tennis

**BUKTA T.T. SHIRTS**  
IN ALL SHADES

**Shoes, Singlets and Clothing**

### BATS

Including BARN, JOHNNY LEACH  
JACK CARRINGTON, HELEN ELLIOT  
PEGGY FRANKS, HAYDON and many  
OTHERS

### All Makes of BALLS

including  
BARN, HALEX, VILLA, METEOR

### BAT COVERS

**Table Nets and Equipment**

PHONE ROYAL 8596

## F. CUTTS & SONS

COMPLETE SPORTS OUTFITTERS

2 COLQUITT ST., LIVERPOOL 1

## PROMOTION FIGHT WILL BE HARD

THE division, with its eight newly promoted teams, certainly appears at the moment to be very evenly balanced. In fact, 35 per cent of the games played so far have resulted in a draw, and no team can be certain of victory over another.

The present leaders, Victoria Park, are solid right down to No. 5, and like number two in our division—Bootle Y.M.C.A.—they are still undefeated. The rest of the teams have all been on the losing end of the stick, especially Liverpool Police who have so far lost all their games. I feel that our division may be a bit too strong for them, but they also have difficulty in turning out their best five every week due to split duties, and that could well be an answer.

Oakhill A, Cheshire Lines, Anfield A and Waterloo Dock are all good sides and will fight all the way before acknowledging defeat. I believe Waterloo Dock are a real tough proposition on their own fast table. Indeed, they proved that by forcing the division leaders to a draw.

### Sure to Improve

Wavertree C.C. and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. have not had their No. 1 players, R. Hulse and D. Rigby, playing in all their games so far, and I am sure that they will improve their position in the table.

I.C.I. are rather a different team from the rest as D. G. Jones, their No. 2, has a wooden bat and can be awkward to beat, as also can C. C. Holttum, with his sudden attacking shots, and R. L. Sayer, an all-round stroke player filling the No. 5 berth.

They are not as bad as their league position suggests.

My own club, Lucem, with J. Rimmer, our new signing this season, at No. 1 and D. Foulis at No. 2, can hold our own with the best, but the surprise of the division at present is that Balfour C have so far only obtained three points out of twelve—unusual for such a fine club, although when you consider they have three teams in the First division, it is probably understandable.

But I shouldn't bank on beating them if I were you. Remember they are a big club with plenty of talent, and the present line-up of F. Rooney, H. Critchley, W. McKechnie, J. Dickenson and T. Partington doesn't look bad to me.

J. Rimmer (Lucem), D. Rigby (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.) and R. Hudson (Oakhill A) are the only unbeaten players in our division, and it is also interesting to note that during the week beginning November 13 five of the games resulted in a draw. Only Balfour won theirs, against Liverpool Police by 9-1.

Brilliant play by Cadwalader, home on leave from the Services, enabled Bootle Y.M.C.A. to force a draw when they visited Lucem, in what proved to be a ding dong struggle from start to finish. After taking Rimmer, Lucem's No. 1, to three games and being only narrowly defeated, Cadwalader defeated Don Foulis.

It is fortunate for the Y.M.C.A. that they have found some more than useful replacements this season, for no fewer than four of last season's first team have been called to the Forces.

DRINK . . . .



**MOORHOUSE'S**  
**"YOR COLA"**

AFTER A MATCH AND YOU ARE READY FOR ANOTHER

All Enquiries to—

**MOORHOUSE BROS., 4 BACK GILFORD ST.**  
**ANFIELD 248. LIVERPOOL, 6**

## WARNING NOTE—WATCH RAFTERS

IT is obviously too late to introduce the eleven new members of this season's division to old hands Oakhill or to each other. Old rivalries have already been renewed and new ones encountered.

A strong contingent from last season's Fifth Division is out to prove its worthiness in the higher sphere and already the stronger teams are beginning to establish their supremacy at the top while the strugglers are easily picked out.

Among the first week's results one worthy of special mention was the victory of Victoria Park over Linnet. Thus the latter's 100 per cent League record, maintained since the club's formation, was shattered. Linnet, however, did not let this worry them and have collected maximum points since.

Incidentally it was a new look Victoria Park team—five new faces but five old hands at the game.

### Setting the Pace

The team of the moment, however, is Litherland, inspired by A. C. Taylor, who is fast making a name for himself in the City junior team. These lads have established themselves at the top and are setting a cracking pace.

It is comforting to be able to count two sets as good as won, but Litherland's tail is also doing its share and a fortunate comparatively easy set of fixtures to start off with has given them just the confidence they need. They dropped their point at Victoria Park, in a game which sank low in table tennis artistry and which apparently unsettled the Park, making them easy victims at the Cadwa H.Q. the following week.

Cadwa are a strong force, however, and we must not detract from their overwhelming victory. When you visit their club you may do as we did and witness the local cubs going through their paces.

The hall is soon reduced by partitioning and the resultant match space presents a well-lit cosy area, although the table will not suit the lovers of fast surfaces. The team is skippered by Renee Crafter, who is almost an institution in our midst. He has lost none of his former defensive skill, added a little extra cunning to make up

for a possible loss of speed and is ruthless to win 21—0.

Plevin, left-handed versatile No. 1 and Williams at No. 3 make a formidable opening trio. Brackley and Mrs. Crafter at Nos. 4 and 5 are good but may be a possible weakness in a severe battle, and because of this I do not take Cadwa to be division champions, although having said that Cadwa will be all out to make me eat my words. Good luck to them anyway.

Watch Rafters! At full strength they are among the league's best. Senior team calls may however, rob them of leading players which may in turn jeopardise league hopes, but they could well be the deciding factor in other team's chances.

Osterley, Technical Students and English Electric are also likely to be well in the picture, but for the rest it appears to be a question of whether they can hang on to Third Div. status.

## For All Sports

TABLE TENNIS

TENNIS

BADMINTON

CRICKET

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

ANGLING

GOLF

Etc.

CONSULT

**Heslop & Dukinfield Ltd.**

*THE Sports Shop*

32 NORTH JOHN STREET

LIVERPOOL 2 Phone CENTral 4851

## Mystery Team From Bootle

AS the new reporter for Fourth Div. affairs I must ask players not to be too hard on me until I have had an opportunity of getting to know the teams and individuals a bit more thoroughly than I do at the moment.

The face of the division, too, has changed considerably since last season and, in fact, is virtually a new division containing only three of last season's Fourth Division teams. This inevitably means a rather longer settling-in period before it would be prudent to even hazard a guess at the future shape of the division.

My notes this month cover only the first five matches played by each of the teams and at this stage Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A team, African Oil Mills A and Wavertree C.C. A were still undefeated, both the Y.M.C.A. and African Oil being newcomers to the league.

The progress of African Oil will be particularly interesting to watch, coming as they do from an undoubtedly strong club. At first glance it is rather surprising that Works teams, with membership restricted to employees, should produce teams as strong as A.O.M., but upon reflection the opportunities for practice presented by having a table on the job must be considerable.

### Curious Changes

Bootle Y.M.C.A. A are my pet mystery team at the moment. Try as I may I cannot fathom the remarkable changes in playing order exhibited by this team.

Even if all the players are of approximately equal strength I should have thought that it would have been sound policy to maintain a reasonably constant playing order, with only minor changes, for a couple of months. Instead we find that against Harold House E. Dempsey was playing No. 1 and R. Ferris playing No. 4, and in the next match against Livex A, Dempsey had dropped to No. 5 and Ferris had gone up to No. 1.

That is not an isolated instance. All the playing positions fluctuate in a most amazing manner from week to week, but perhaps it is part of the new season settling down. Having played against Ferris, he strikes me as a player who has got the fundamentals of a good style and is young enough to improve considerably, but not by jumping up and down the team.

Incidentally Bootle Y.M.C.A. beat Harold House 10-0 and drew with Livex.

Since these notes were written I have learned that Liverpool Y.M.C.A. beat African Oil Mills 9-1—a surprisingly heavy defeat for a team that had carried all before them for the previous five weeks.

---

## D. M. SINGER

### SPORTS OUTFITTER

---

FOR ALL TABLE  
TENNIS EQUIPMENT

FISHING RODS  
AND TACKLE

TENNIS, CRICKET  
HOCKEY, FOOTBALL  
BADMINTON

All Kinds of  
INDOOR GAMES  
ICE SKATES & BOOTS

RESTRINGING  
& REPAIRS  
QUICK  
SERVICE

---

## D. M. SINGER

12 Exchange St. East, LIVERPOOL 2

Tel. CENTral 1987. 3 mins. from Exchange Stn.



# LEAGUE TABLES

## First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour .....	7	6	1	0	50	20	12
African Oil ...	7	5	0	2	42	28	12
Balfour "A" .....	7	4	3	0	40	30	8
Rafters .....	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Oakhill .....	7	2	2	3	34	36	7
Anfield .....	7	2	2	3	33	37	7
15th Crosby .....	7	2	2	3	31	39	7
Rafters "A" .....	7	3	4	0	35	35	6
Livex .....	7	3	4	0	34	36	6
Acacia .....	7	1	3	3	31	39	5
Balfour "B" .....	7	1	5	1	27	43	3
Bohemians ...	7	1	5	1	25	45	3

## Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Lucem .....	7	4	1	2	43	27	10
Victoria Park .....	7	4	1	2	43	27	10
Bootle Y.M.C.A. ....	7	3	1	3	38	32	9
Cheshire Lines .....	7	3	1	3	38	32	9
Anfield "A" .....	7	3	1	3	36	34	9
Liverpool Y.M. ....	7	3	2	2	43	27	8
Oakhill "A" .....	7	1	1	5	36	34	7
Wavertree C.C. ....	7	2	2	3	35	35	7
I.C.I. ....	7	2	3	2	34	36	6
Waterloo Dock .....	7	2	3	2	33	37	6
Balfour "C" .....	7	1	5	1	28	42	3
L.P.A.S. ....	7	0	7	0	13	57	0

## Third Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Litherland ...	7	6	0	1	55	15	13
Linnets .....	7	6	1	0	50	20	12
Cadwa .....	7	5	1	1	48	22	11
Rafters "B" ...	7	4	2	1	46	24	9
Victoria Park A .....	7	4	2	1	38	32	9
Eng. Electric .....	7	3	2	2	35	35	8
Osterley .....	7	2	2	3	34	36	7
Tech. Students .....	7	3	4	0	30	40	6
Bohemians "A" .....	7	2	4	1	30	40	5
Oakhill "B" .....	7	1	5	1	19	51	3
Linacre .....	7	0	6	1	17	53	1
Anfield "B" ...	7	0	7	0	18	52	0

## Fourth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
L'pool Y.M. "A" .....	7	6	0	1	54	16	13
W'tree C.C. "A" .....	7	4	0	3	43	27	11
African Oil "A" .....	7	5	1	1	41	29	11
Bohemians "B" .....	7	4	2	1	40	30	9
Bath Street .....	7	3	2	2	39	31	8
St. Michaels .....	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Livex "A" ...	7	2	1	4	33	37	8
Bootle Y.M. "A" .....	7	2	4	1	36	34	5
Domestic Miss. ....	7	2	4	1	27	43	5
R.A.F.A. (Liv.) .....	7	1	5	1	26	44	3
Harold House .....	7	1	5	1	25	45	3
Aigburth .....	7	0	7	0	18	52	0

## WOMENS'—Division I

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bibby's .....	7	6	0	1	52	18	13
Balfour .....	7	6	1	0	53	17	12
Lofters .....	7	5	0	2	53	17	12
Oakhill .....	7	4	2	1	42	28	9
Rafters .....	7	3	1	3	39	31	9
Linnets .....	7	4	3	0	39	31	8
Bohemians ...	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Cheshire Lines .....	7	1	4	2	26	44	4
Leyfield.....	7	1	4	2	19	51	4
Littlewoods ...	7	1	5	1	26	44	3
Anfield .....	7	1	6	0	20	50	2
Aigburth .....	7	0	7	0	13	57	0

## WOMENS'—Division II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Wavertree C.C. ....	7	5	1	1	47	23	11
Linnets "A" .....	7	5	1	1	46	24	11
Waterloo Park .....	7	5	1	1	41	29	11
Brenka .....	6	4	1	1	38	22	9
Lofters "A" .....	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Bohemians "A" .....	7	3	2	2	36	34	8
Osterley .....	6	3	3	0	32	28	6
Littlewoods 'A' .....	7	3	4	0	30	40	6
Ogdens .....	6	1	3	2	29	31	4
Beauclair ...	7	0	4	3	27	43	3
Catholic Metro .....	7	1	6	0	18	52	2
Lucem .....	6	0	5	1	18	42	1

## NORTH REGIONAL I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Waterloo Park .....	7	7	0	0	62	8	14
Lofters .....	7	6	1	0	53	17	12
Brenka .....	7	6	1	0	47	23	12
Eng. Electric 'A' .....	7	5	2	0	43	27	10
Littlewoods .....	7	4	1	2	37	33	10
Litherland "A" .....	7	3	3	1	34	36	7
W'loo Dock 'A' .....	7	3	3	1	34	36	7
Everton Y.M. ....	7	2	5	0	27	43	4
R.A.F. M'ments .....	7	1	5	1	22	48	3
Tech. Students A .....	7	1	6	0	25	45	2
W'breck Moor .....	7	1	6	0	23	47	2
15th Crosby A .....	7	0	6	1	13	57	1

## NORTH REGIONAL II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Raw Cott. Com. ....	6	4	0	2	44	16	10
Lofters "A" .....	7	5	2	0	44	26	10
St. Dominics .....	7	5	2	0	38	32	10
Maghull .....	7	4	2	1	39	31	9
W'loo Park "A" .....	6	3	1	2	41	19	8
Eng. Electric 'B' .....	7	4	3	0	38	32	8
Bootle Y.M. "B" .....	6	4	2	0	36	24	8
Litherland "B" .....	6	1	2	3	27	33	5
Tech. Students B .....	6	1	5	0	19	41	2
W'loo Park "B" .....	6	0	6	0	15	45	0
Bootle Police .....	6	0	6	0	9	51	0
Anfield "D" .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## LEAGUE TABLES

### SOUTH REGIONAL

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
V'toria Park "B"	7	7	0	0	58	12	14
Linnets "A"	6	5	0	1	51	9	11
Beauchair .....	7	5	1	1	49	21	11
C'hire Lines "A"	7	4	2	1	44	26	9
W'tree C.C. "B"	7	4	2	1	41	29	9
Aigburth Meths	6	3	2	1	39	21	7
Linnets "C"	7	2	3	2	28	42	6
Lucem "B"	6	1	3	2	24	36	4
Cadwa "B"	7	2	5	0	24	46	4
C'hire Lines "B"	6	1	4	1	17	43	3
Vauxhall Sports	7	0	6	1	13	57	1
St. Peters (W'ton)	7	0	6	1	12	58	1

### EAST REGIONAL

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Holly Mount	7	6	0	1	54	16	13
Cadwa "A"	7	6	1	0	54	16	12
V'toria Park 'C'	7	5	1	1	49	21	11
Old Xaverians	7	5	2	0	49	21	10
Balfour "D"	7	4	1	2	47	23	10
Vagabonds ...	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Leyfield .....	7	3	4	0	34	36	6
Osterley "A"	7	2	4	1	27	43	5
W'tree Labour	7	2	5	0	25	45	4
L.P.A.S "A"	7	1	5	1	27	43	3
Beauchair "A"	7	1	6	0	10	60	2
Comet .....	7	0	7	0	6	64	0

### CENTRAL REGIONAL

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Panto .....	7	6	1	0	58	12	12
Lucem "A"...	6	6	0	0	48	12	12
Vagabonds "A"	7	5	2	0	44	26	10
Catholic Metro	7	5	2	0	42	28	10
L. pool Y.M. "B"	7	5	2	0	38	32	10
Linnets "B"	7	4	3	0	44	26	8
Lussac .....	7	4	3	0	40	30	8
Oakhill "C"	7	3	4	0	38	32	6
Anfield "C"	7	2	5	0	26	44	4
Leyfield "A"	7	1	6	0	13	57	2
Old Xaverians A	7	0	7	0	14	56	0
I.C.I. "A" ...	6	0	6	0	5	55	0

## AN APPEAL

RECENT researches into the League's records reveal the fact that no division tables can be found for any season previous to 1933-34, writes Des Loughrey, the League's statistician.

I am very anxious to obtain copies of these final tables which are known to exist, if anyone could help I would be very grateful.

I would also be pleased to see any other data, programmes etc., covering the period mentioned, and would return them as soon as possible. Any information should be sent to me at 109 Upper Parliament St., Liverpool 8.

## NO TEST IN CUP TIES

AT this early stage of the season Liverpool have already won through to the third round of the Wilmott Cup, by means of two big victories over Farnworth and Southport.

The side was breaking new ground in visiting Farnworth, but the home side were no match for Ted and Ron Rumjahn and Bill Pierce. Ted had the closest set, when he just won 21-19 in the third against Clowes after a pushing match which sent brother Ron to sleep on a bench, and reduced Bill Pierce to reading a book about the atomic bomb spies!

A very slippery floor, made our trio a trifle over-cautious in the early stages but each in their last set really cut loose and gave a grand display of attacking shots.

Against Southport the visitor's side was made up by Bamford, Coogan and Crooke, all of whom are playing in our own League. Ron and Ted had an old score to pay off when they met Coogan as he had beaten both of them a few days earlier in a Stamp Cup tie. This they did to their complete satisfaction, Ron winning 21-7, 21-10 and Ted 21-9, 21-11.

Coogan gained some consolation however, when he gained his side's solitary success beating Bill Pierce 21-17 in the third. Liverpool won all but one of the other sets in two straight, Crooke taking Ron Rumjahn to the third only to lose 8-21.

It was interesting to note that over at Farnworth there were 60 spectators present while at Waterloo Dock there were barely 20. A closer analysis of this latter figure revealed the fact that 15 of them came from Southport, leaving about three of the total belonging to our own League!

When we consider that Farnworth have 28 teams in membership and Liverpool 131 it is fairly clear that our side might have been better supported but it seems impossible to arouse members to give our representative sides any support at all. It is indeed a sad reflection on the League.

# Bill Pierce—The Enigma

By J. H. C. HUGHES

TO Renshaw Hall for the Livex and African Oil Mills match—Renshaw Hall with its memories of one of our most spectacular Open Merseysides which included Barna, Szabados and Bellak, the last named beating one of our then first division players 21—0.

The first match of the night was between E. Smith, ex-Bronze Sports and Kingsway, fresh from his win over Reg. Hetherington, and Bill Pierce.

It was one of the worst games I can remember seeing between two first division players. They were in such a hurry that I did not expect to see them taking part in the second half of the match as I thought they must have had a train to catch. They even served while on the run.

Pierce won 21—14, 21—17 because Smith was even quicker than his opponent in hitting the ball off the table, though it is fair to say he was helped by the top of the net. Pierce did his best to keep up with him.

## Probe for Weakness

The next match between Chesham and Varty was a very different affair—both players using all the table in an effort to probe his opponent's weakness. Every point was well earned. Chesham won two straight by the use of a little extra pace and cleverly angled drives in a most enjoyable match.

Coveney brought his own particular brand of wizardry into play against Jones. He also got himself into several queer positions for serving, though as far as I could see the only effect it had was to send the ball over the net, and he was successful in getting Jones to use his powerful but uncontrollable forehand on the wrong ball and so get a fairly easy two straight win.

Bell with a flowering attack on both flanks, proved too strong for Lawson, and to end the first half A. D. Smith lost to Loughlin. After winning the first game fairly easily Smith lost his length and Loughlin, plugging away, gave the Oil Mills an interval lead of 4—1.

We then had Chesham and Pierce. What a different Pierce to that we saw earlier. Here he gave a brilliant exhibition, treating each ball on its merits and, hitting on both forehand

and backhand with a ferocity that left Chesham helpless, eventually winning 21—14, 21—12.

Chesham, as always, fought to the end, but on this form very few could have lived with Pierce. It was one of the finest displays of controlled attack I have seen. If Pierce can produce more of it and at the same time can conquer himself—for I still feel that he is his own greatest enemy—then he may yet fulfil all the hopes some of us still hold.

## Won Hard Way

Varty went on to beat Lawson in two tight games but might have won sooner if he had not taken things quite so easy. With the match won Coveney decided to flick against E. Smith, with the result that Smith won in the third match he might have lost for his forehand was still not working.

Jones pulled another set back for Livex, mainly due to the fact that his flat hit was more consistent than earlier and proved too much for Loughlin.

It was left to A. D. Smith and Bell to finish up, and Smith, by a collection of shots that do not appear in any text book, won 21—19 in the third for African Oil to take the match 6—4, a margin that rather flattered the home side.

Nevertheless, Livex still have reason to be well satisfied with the way things have so far gone in this their first season in Division I.

## It Cost Them a Point

DISCIPLINARY action has unfortunately had to be taken against two clubs this season owing to their playing ineligible players.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. included an unregistered player in their side against Oakhill A, while their team in the match against Bath Street contained a player who had been registered for the B team. Cheshire Lines A similarly transgressed when playing St. Peter's.

In each case the sets won by the player in question were awarded to the opponents which had the effect of turning victories into drawn matches and the consequent loss of a point.

## BIBBY'S SURPRISED BY LOFTERS

THE season is already well under way and although it often takes as much as half the season before some players strike their best form, several close matches have been played.

With the resignation of two or three teams we are sorry to part with old friends, but we have pleasure in extending a warm welcome to new teams and players and wishing them a happy and successful season. They will naturally create added interest as for some time they will be an unknown quality.

Lofters are, of course, an exception as most of their members are well seasoned players. They were also fortunate to sign on several players from Bootle C.D. who unfortunately had to disband at the end of last season. Other Bootleians have joined the ranks of Oakhill. Lofters have made an excellent start. I should imagine they are all out to keep up the good reputation of the North. Indeed, Bibby's will have good reason to beware of them in the future as they dropped their first point to Lofters on their own table, rather a surprise as Bibby's had beaten Balfour away the previous week.

### Good Recovery

Two vital sets only went to three games. The opening set between Gladys Brown and Beryl Waterson, which was full of excitement as they were well matched and mixed their game well, saw Gladys eventually win 22—20 in the third after being down 16—19.

With her team leading 5—3 there were high hopes among the home players that Lil Rimmer would secure victory, but she was never happy against Joyce Lloyd—present Foulis Cup holder—and lost 20/22 in the third game. Joyce's strong and rather unorthodox attacking game often caught Lil on the wrong foot.

Marjorie Baron secured the draw for Lofters by easily beating a nervous Joan Dinwoodie, who was playing much below her form, 21/8, 21/6. Margaret Perry—Bibby's "tornado"—won both her sets in straight games against M. Griffiths and M. Baron. Margaret certainly believes in putting all she has into the game any moment one expects to see her go over with the ball, and if she did, I believe she would get back in time to bash the return.

Other results were G. Brown beat N. Lamb 21/10, 21/16; L. Rimmer lost to B. Waterson 17/21, 14/21; M. Bannister lost to N. Lamb 17/21, 13/21; beat M. Griffiths 21/16, 21/13. J. Dinwoodie v. J. Lloyd.

The drawn match between Rafter's and the promoted Bohemians did not provide any real excitement even although the result was decided until the last game. Olwen Southall and Joan Brennand have taken over from Bluey and Pinkie May as opening pair for Rafter's who led 4—2 at the interval.

May Alcock had lost to Olwen and Joan; Pat Spranger to Joan, and Pauline Fitzpatrick to Kay Rumjahn. Bohemians' two sets were won by Moya Pattison over Sylvia Swannick, and Daisy Mezey over Mary Swindells.

After the interval Moya accounted for Olwen, and Pat lost to M. Swindells 20/22 in the third, after pulling up to 20/17 from being 13/17 down. With Rafter's leading 5—3. D. Mezey beat K. Rumjahn and Pauline secured the draw by beating S. Swannick in the third.

### Strong Tail.

Bohemians have a strong tail in D. Mezey and P. Fitzpatrick, and so far Moya Pattison has only dropped 2 sets, both to Bibby's the previous week.

Four of the sets went to three games M. Alcock v. J. Bernnard 25/23, 11/21, 20/22; P. Spranger v. M. Swindells 21/19, 14/21, 20/22; P. Fitzpatrick v. S. Swannick 19/21, 21/8, 21/12; v. Rumjahn 7/21, 22/20, 19/21.

Leyfield and Linnets—the other promoted teams—are finding themselves a little out of their depth at the moment but will no doubt improve their position as the season progresses.

There has been a lot of chopping and changing in several teams, and obviously many of the captains have not known the strength and ability of their players until after the season commenced. Quite a number of players are also obviously suffering from lack of practise during the close season.

I should once again like to appeal for your support at inter-city and Rose Bowl matches, that is if we are fortunate enough to get over our next hurdle at Blackpool.

## NEW GIANT IN OUR MIDST

FOR the first time in its history the North has a second division, and in keeping with the friendly atmosphere that is associated with the region I shall refer in these notes to the old family and the new.

Of the old family we regret the loss of Burlington, due to the breakdown in health of their faithful secretary Les Perons. Their collapse is an example of what one good servant can mean to a club and what happens when there is nobody willing to accept responsibility. To Les Perons we send our best wishes for a complete recovery, hoping that next season he will rally his colleagues, now exiles with other clubs, to hoist again the House flag.

It was indeed a tragedy. Burlington won the North Region championship in 1950-51, were elevated to the Third Division on the strength of their record and proved their worthiness of the compliment by finishing sixth. To regain a place in that division will take three years of championship form.

I had hoped that Hamilton Mission would be reorganised and return to us, but was disappointed.

### Rough Reception

Bath Street, elevated to higher circles, and Lofters A, evicted to lower domains, meant four vacancies. One of these was given to Technical Students A, who were second last season in South Region 2. They don't take kindly to the transfer and their rough reception on the match table has shaken them a little. Having visited them unrecognised I came away with the impression that they were the type to forgive, forget and to render a much better account of themselves.

R.A.F. Movements took to our region as all good troopers do. They live up to their name. Secretary Bennett is on embarkation leave as I write these notes. Good luck go with him.

Everton Y.M.C.A. thoroughly enjoy being with us. They can take a hiding and give one. Already they are popular with those teams who have come into contact with them. They have two players who have earned praise from opponents—Redmond and Romney.

Very much junior members, 15th Crosby A are learning by the hard road of experience which will make them

into a sterner and much more capable proposition in another season or two. Meanwhile, our admiration and our encouragement.

Now to the older tenants of the region. What a revelation at Waterloo Park, under their new secretary Charlie Bray. Last season they had but one team didn't compel serious attention. During the closed season they have expanded from one team to four—three men's teams and one women's.

### Smashed Records

Charlie Bray has a first team boasting the names of Bill Kinraid, A. Haydon and Harry Havard, who are supported by players of more than average ability. They are top of the region and have never looked like being seriously extended. When meeting Brenka, who shared the distinction with them of winning the first five matches, the Park trounced them 9—1 in a match in which three previously unbeaten players lost their records.

A new giant, greater than Litherland B.C. is in our midst. Is it possible a miracle can happen and some David stop them?

A word of praise to the Park's women's team, playing in their first season and inspired by Mrs. Campbell. They are maintaining the fine standard set by the male members of the club. Congratulations Mr. Bray on a fine piece of enterprise and energy.

New names that have impressed me are D. Morley (Brenka), 15 years old boy Cuff (English Electric), Hoatson (Litherland), Finch (Technical Students) Miss D. Millington (Littlewoods), Miss D. Davies (English Electric).

In the newly-formed division, Raw Cotton, under the guidance of L. Hornby, lead the way. They are keen and very sociable. Lofters A are making a big bid to regain first division status; Maghull, St. Dominic's and Bootle Police are popular teams enjoying their first season with us, and of them I will report more fully next issue.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. A, led by Peter Waterson to give the youngsters experience, finds his youngsters inquiring "When are we going to get a winning No. 1 and 2?"—all in good sport, of course.

## Methodists Our Puzzle Team

WITH the opening of the new season, let me first bid a hearty welcome to the four newcomers to the Region—Aigburth Methodists, down from last season's Fifth Division, the B teams of our old colleagues Lucem and Cadwa, and completely new to the League, St. Peters.

The other eight teams were with us last season, but since three were members of our now defunct Second Div. we are something of a mixed bag.

As last year, I am sticking my neck out as a prophet. I feel that the champions will be found among Linnet A, Victoria Park B, Aigburth Methodists and Beauclair, and, as a further gesture to fate I will offer my opinion that they will finish in this order. Please don't shoot until I am proved wrong.

### Among our Best

I saw the Methodists in action at Vauxhall and cannot understand just how they were so constantly beaten last season. In Alan Topping they have a No. 1 whose all-round game must place him among the Region's best. There are few losses awaiting him this year I am sure.

Strongly supporting him are Stan Wilkinson and Jim Cashin, both of whom will prove dangerous opponents. At No. 4 comes a newcomer to the team, J. Cressy, a tall left-hander of attractive style, and last, but by no means least, Barbara Royden, who has added a stout defence to a by no means weak attack.

Altogether they are a strong combination and as good company away from the table as they are to be feared on the other side of the net. A decided asset to the region viewed from any angle.

I was decidedly disappointed in the lighting at Vauxhall, but not in the warm welcome extended to me. I do not think I shall offend Mr. Brougham and his team if I suggest that they make a portable spar with three lights instead of the single unshaded light used to-day. It could be erected easily and quickly each match night and the result will be well worth the effort.

If Beauclair had "Linnet-phobia" at the season's start I cannot blame them. First week Linnet A away, next

week Linnet C at home, third week away to Linnet C in the Readman Cup. Doubtless they had to look at the handbook to see if there were any other clubs to play.

It gave me the chance, however, to find out how they were playing. Fred Farrell, playing as well as ever, is at No. 1, collecting points calmly and methodically. At No. 2 they have a newcomer in S. Porter, an all-rounder of promise but whose attack is on the erratic side.

Jack McKim at No. 3 and John Atherton need no introduction, so it will suffice to say that the mid-section of the team is strong. But at No. 5 comes the young ex-Liverpool Y.M.C.A. boy, Keith Horne. I was delighted to see a marked improvement in him, particularly in defence.

Now, I wish to draw your attention to Rule 19—Match Dress—on Page 24 of the handbook. It applies to the South Region equally with the First Division, yet I have already seen one player sartorially splendid in a pale cream, near-white shirt, several multi-coloured shirts highly suitable for square dancing but not for table tennis. And what about cleaning those white shoes.

---

Whitty's  
for  
TABLE  
TENNIS

15 BASNETT STREET  
LIVERPOOL 1

ROYAL 3011

## Only Holly Mount Undefeated

WITH only six matches played the Region has already divided itself into a clearly defined pattern, with five or six teams in the lead.

With the surprise defeat of Vagabonds by Old Xaverians, only Holly Mount have yet to suffer defeat, but they dropped a point when held to a draw by Balfour D.

Cadwa A, who hold second place at the time of writing, have almost wiped out their defeat in the first match of the season by Victoria Park A, who are lying third. Balfour D and Old Xaverians are still in the hunt, and either of them can easily step up into a leading position in the event of a slip by any of the leaders.

### Reward May Come

At the other end of the table there is Comet, who have yet to earn a point in this their first season in the league. To them I would say: Wait until the second half of the fixtures and probably experience will bring some reward for your labours.

Liverpool Police A have their usual difficulties of a constantly changing team owing to duty times, and we must admit those difficulties while admiring their enthusiasm.

Old Xaverians are proving themselves to be a much stronger combination than many had expected. Their success over Vagabonds put them into fourth place in the region, and they have only had their colours lowered by Holly Mount, the present leaders, and Cadwa A, lying second. Their strength lies not so much in one or two of their players so much as in the team as a whole.

Additional interest is being added to the region this season by the fact that that individual honours seem to be well spread. I do not think that we have an undefeated player in the region, although there are some who have not suffered many defeats. Generally speaking it is an indication of how even are those playing in the respective positions.

One player who seems to be carrying a big burden for his club is Hambleton, No. 1 for Wavertree Labour, but he does not appear to be getting the support from the rest of the team that his efforts

deserve and which that would make them dangerous opponents.

As I recently took over the Region from Don Power, may I give my address and telephone number to those of you whom I have not yet visited. The address is 8 Seymour Road, Broadgreen, Liverpool 14, and the telephone number STOneycroft 6908.

I am asking for suggestions for the Regional tournament which will take place in the New Year. What do you suggest as to events and are their any possible premises available?

Regarding matches, there are one or two observations I would like to make which might help to improve things.

They are:—

1.—Cannot all players wear an open neck shirt, even if not all of the same colour.

2.—New balls are too clean, but old ones can be wiped and kept reasonably clean.

3.—If tables are dusted before play begins it will help to keep the balls clean and therefore more easily seen.

Finally, although it is a bit early to make tips, I suggest that when the season ends we shall see the following holding high positions—Cadwa A, Holly Mount and Vagabonds.

## HYDE CUP

THE following is the draw for the 1st Round of the HYDE CUP, to be played during week commencing 15th December:—

Cheshire Lines "A" v. Littlewoods; Brenks v. Comet; Vagabonds v. Warbreck Moor; Panto v. Raw Cotton Commission; Linnets "A" v. Lofters; Osterly "A" v. Litherland "B"; Linnets "B" v. Waterloo Park "A"; L.P.A.S. "A" v. Litherland "A"; Wavertree Labour v. Lofters "A"; Bottle Police v. Victoria Park "C".

R.A.F. Movements v. St. Peters; Oakhill "C" v. Tech. Students "A"; Eng. Electric "B" v. Catholic Metro; Linnets "C" v. Everton Y.M.C.A.; Aigburth Meths. v. Liverpool Y.M.C.A. "B"; Bootle Y.M.C.A. "B" v. Balfour "D"; Old Xaverians v. Eng. Electric "A"; Holly Mount v. Maghull.

The remaining teams have byes.

## We Make Our Bow to League

It's hello to a new season and a new region. I'm not prepared to say, on what I have seen, that we are a strong Region, but we have some good players in our midst.

The first match I attended was Lucem A v. Lussac. I was pleased to see Lucem's new lighting, which is a vast improvement. Also pleased to hear from E. Sturgess, secretary of Lussac, that they are playing in their canteen this season. This should prove a good move for them and their opponents, and tend to improve their own standard of play.

Lucem are a strong team and will take a lot of beating, as Panto discovered when they played them. This was a hard battle for both teams. Panto have been strengthened this season by H. P. Harkness joining them as No. 1, and I thought he was going to turn the tables for them when he beat P. Shone, Lucem's No. 1, to make it 4-3 in Panto's favour. However, this was not to be.

### Injured Knee

R. Tyler played very steadily to level at 4—all. Then H. Furness calmly made it 5-4 for Lucem. And so to the final set! Could Panto pull it off and share the points? H. Haskayne won the first game fairly comfortably but his opponent, R. Fowler, was beginning to get the measure of him.

The last point of that game was the turning point for unfortunately, in going back to defend, Fowler bumped into a locker and injured his knee. He played on gamely but one could see he was in pain and Panto's hopes of a draw faded.

I must express my admiration for the sporting way Haskayne played that second game. He almost allowed his sympathetic concern for his opponent to cost him the game. This was Panto's first defeat in 26 league matches, and they lost gallantly.

It was difficult to assess the strength of Linnet B when I saw them playing Leyfield A, who are very weak but very game. Although losing all their matches they still fight. M. Gerassimos was 3-12 down in the third game to A. Watson (No. 1 Linnet) and he fought back to finally lose it 20-22.

Leyfield have a youngster in D. Mackenzie, aged 15, who I think shows promise. He, too, is a fighter, as G. Cross of Vagabond's A well knows. Their third game finished at 30-32 in Cross's favour.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B had a bad beginning. The loss of six of their players naturally weakened their B team but they have since strengthened it and are now picking up badly needed points.

In their match with Vagabond's A only seven sets had been played by 10 p.m., although a prompt start was made. Several sets going to three, and several were deuce games. The 8-2 result in Y.M.'s favour was hardly a true indication of the close games.

A similar story can be told of Y.M.'s 8-2 defeat of Linnet B when nine of the sets went to three games.

We only have three players left with 100 per cent averages, namely, H. P. Harkness (Panto), J. Green (Lussac) and A. E. Upton (Oakhill C).

## The Sports Specialist

TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT A SPECIALITY  
Championship Tables, Bats, Balls, Nets, Shoes and Clothing.  
All makes of named Bats and Tables supplied.

# JACK SHARP

LIMITED

Telephone:

ROYAL 4793/4

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS . . .

**36-38 Whitechapel : LIVERPOOL 1**



## A Meeting That Made News

IT is said that when normal events occur in unusual circumstances they make news, and the first event of note this season did make news.

It was the first meeting of the Selection Committee. Des Loughrey, who is welcomed to the committee, was unfortunately in hospital and as nothing must stand in the way of table tennis, the meeting was duly held in the hospital. Des did not occupy the chair, but he certainly did the bed.

I believe this is the first full meeting held on such premises and followed meetings by members of the Management Committee around the bed of Secretary Bill Stamp when he was in hospital.

### Some Changes.

The season sees several changes in the composition of the Lancashire League. The A team in Division 1 meet two teams from Manchester, Bolton and Stockport. Once again it would appear that the race will be between Bolton A and Manchester A.

The B team this year plays in Division 3 West, which is a very compact division, the furthest we have to travel being Warrington. Other opponents will be Ellesmere Port B, Runcorn, Widnes and Wirral B. At present the position is open but there is no reason why the B team should not do well and top their division.

In their league games the women do not break any ground, but in addition to last season's opponents they meet Crewe. The question is can they go one better than last season and win the division.

Among the tit-bits of the season will undoubtedly be the meetings between the B team and Wirral B, our former colleagues and now friendly rivals. The first, played at Bootle Y.M.C.A. resulted in a 6-3 victory for our team after a game that provided plenty of good table tennis.

The first match of the season was played against Bolton at Bibby's, where there is always a warm welcome.

Bolton turned out their strongest team, Booth, Ellison and Costello in opposition to Ron and Peter Rumjahn and Pierce.

There was some fine play before Bolton ran out winners by six sets to four, in the main due to Booth winning his three sets, but the result was in doubt until the final game when Booth beat Ron Rumjahn in a fitting finish to a hard-fought match.

Best player for Liverpool was Ron Rumjahn, who won two sets. There were flashes of the old Bill Pierce, but they were not sustained long enough.

Set winners for Liverpool were Ron Rumjahn two, P. Rumjahn one and the doubles by the two Rumjahns. For Bolton, Booth (3), Ellison (2) and Costello (1).

## PERSONAL PARS

A surprise awaited Linnet Club members Peter Short and Audrey Taylor when they arrived at the reception after their marriage. Decorating the top of their wedding cake was a complete table tennis table, with net, bats and a ball, fashioned in icing. It was the bride's mother's idea and she had kept it a secret from everybody. To the newlyweds our congratulations.

Congratulations also to two other Linnets, Don Brown, popular South Region Secretary, and Audrey Richards on their wedding just before the season opened.

And to Alan Topping and Barbara Royden, stalwart members of Aigburth Methodists. To all three couples friendly enemies send their best wishes.

Will club secretaries and others interested please note that Mr. E. Cameron, Victoria Park secretary, is on the telephone at his home. The number is CHildwall 6456.

From hospital where she is making good progress, Joyce sends her best wishes to all friends and "enemies" and hopes for a splendid season.

# A BOLD APPROACH TO PROBLEM

By Eric Caird.

FRIDAY, September 26, 1952, was notable for two things, for, in addition to being the first quarter of the moon, it also marked the inception of a new approach to the coaching problem by the Management Committee of the Liverpool League.

The question of coaching has long been a subject provoking much thought and discussion, and many schemes have been tried, not only in this League but in practically every part of the country. Determined that within the next two or three years Liverpool shall resume its rightful place at the head of national Table Tennis, the Management Committee has formulated an ambitious scheme for the recruitment and development of players.

Confronted with the problem of National Service at the age of eighteen years and the disadvantages attendant thereon, the League, on September 26, 1952, broke entirely new ground by taking Table Tennis to the schools. A most comprehensive programme was drawn up and an exhibition staged at the Liverpool Y.M.C.A., to which invitations were sent to every type of school in Liverpool.

## Good Response

The response was extremely gratifying and several hundred school children, accompanied by masters and mistresses, witnessed a most interesting exhibition of table tennis. The three Rumjahn brothers, Reg Hetherington, Eileen Mansell and Bluey Casselman staged (to a split second time-table) exhibition games of very fine quality.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly an illustrated talk given by Peter Rumjahn in which every shot in the game was demonstrated to perfection, and showed youngsters and oldsters alike the correct way in which

shots should be played. That interest was aroused was evident from the conversations which took place at the conclusion of the evening's play, and already similar exhibitions on a smaller scale have been arranged to take place at various schools in Liverpool.

The Management Committee hopeful that enough promising material will become available through this scheme, and that, given proper coaching under League auspices, younger players will come to maturity before their National Service is undertaken, with the consequent advantage that on their return to civilian life only a short period of rehabilitation should be necessary to bring them once more to their pre-National Service proficiency.

**This approach to the schools is not by any means the "be all and end all" of the coaching scheme.**

Young players of promise will continue to be recruited by the League and club secretaries are asked to co-operate by passing on to Mr. Stamp the names of any promising young player who they feel has the temperament and the time to devote to coaching and subsequent practice.

The whole question of coaching is a most thought-provoking subject, and is one on which many diverse views are held. Are *YOU* in favour of it, or do *YOU* think it so much waste of time? Have *YOU* any ideas as to how the standard of play can be improved through coaching?

If so, don't keep them to yourself, pass them on to Mr. Stamp, either directly or through your secretary, or, alternatively, air them through the correspondence columns of the *Digest*. You want a controversial subject—here is one. Let the Management know what *YOU* think.

*This Magazine was Printed by*

**Henry Matthews**  
& SONS, LTD.

**10-12 Pall Mall, Liverpool 3**

FOR HIGH-CLASS  
PRINTING  
BROCHURES &  
PROGRAMMES  
A SPECIALITY

## THESE ARE YOUR LETTERS

### Three-Aside Opponent.

SIR :—I note that the League are trying out a three-aside competition with a view to changing over from five-aside. This to my mind has many disadvantages. Clubs with three or more teams will not find four match nights sufficient to cater for their additional teams and to allow practice evenings.

Unless the League modified its charges it would cost clubs considerably more to cater for an equal number of players and it would probably increase even more the growing monopoly of the bigger clubs in the higher divisions.

As an alteration I would suggest four-aside, with each player playing two singles and the match rounded off with two doubles. Doubles is a great game; unfortunately missed for so long from our league.

The greatest snag, to my scheme is clubroom space, but to overcome it let us launch our league on a four-aside basis, retaining the present five-aside formation as a subsidiary league for those clubs who unfortunately cannot accommodate doubles, or who prefer all singles.

Incidentally, what about the doubles cup competition? Are

*Continued at foot of next column.*

## In Rose Bowl Zone Final

OUR women's team have won their way to the zone final of the Rose Bowl competition as the result of a comparatively easy win over Burnley and a convincing victory over Blackpool after a much harder fought match.

The 6-2 victory achieved by Miss Eileen Mansell, Mrs. K. Casselman and Miss L. Rimmer over Burnley just about reflected the superiority of our team over their opponents, for whom only Miss J. Davies showed herself to be dangerous and to possess table tennis of real ability. It was indeed she who won Burnley's two sets by beating Mrs. Casselman and Miss Rimmer.

Andree Jones returned to the team for the tie against Blackpool and although our team went to the seaside resort with the knowledge that they had already beaten the Seasiders a fortnight earlier in a Lancashire League match, they knew they would have to fight all the way.

And they did to win by five sets to three with one unplayed, but just how close was the match may be gathered from the fact that seven of the eight sets went to three games. Blackpool's M. Booth took the greatest honours by beating both Miss Jones and Miss Mansell, but probably the most surprising win for its ease was that scored by Miss Jones over Miss K. Benson, the only set decided in two straight.

the Management Committee ignoring this resolution "at their peril"—Mr. Stamp's own words regarding resolutions passed at the general meeting and subsequently disregarded.—

E. CAMERON (Victoria Park).

### SUBSCRIBERS

*Become a regular Subscriber to the "Digest". Cut this out and send with 3/3 postal order to Mr. W. Stamp, 3, Farmdale Close, Liverpool 18. And future issues will be posted to you.*

Name .....

Address .....