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DIGEST**

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OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Table Tennis

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Digest

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D. M. Foulis W. Stamp A. Montgomery

COMMENT

IT is said that those who ask shall receive, and the truth of the statement has been brought home forcibly to us. Last month we asked for criticism and we have received it in good measure, but as will be seen from our correspondence columns our readers seem to be as much at variance with one another as they are with the *Digest*.

One, for instance, complains that we devote too much space to divisional reports; the other that we do not give enough. These two views are diametrically opposed and to try and meet both of them would appear to be impossible. Yet that is the problem which the Editorial Board, as the policy-makers of the *Digest*, face and in an effort to conciliate both writers we would like to put forward some explanations.

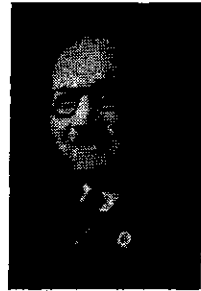
May we point out to the first writer that the object of the *Digest* is simple—to provide the members of our League with the news about players and matches. We do not set out to be a national magazine, nor even an area magazine. Therefore, we devote practically the whole of our space to matters concerning our League.

To the writers of the second letter we would say that our space is limited and we and our contributors do try to get all the news into that limited space. The space is allotted to each contributor by the Editorial Board and they do try to make it a fair division. If our complainants will look more closely they will see that only two writers have a whole page—Miss Lindner for the women's and Mr. Neill for the North Region, because they are the only ones who deal with two divisions. Each of the other contributors is allotted three-quarters of a page.

In that space they try to get the news of their division or divisions, but it is obvious that there must be things of interest of which they do not hear. If your club has any, write or telephone your reporter or the editors of the *Digest*. Both they and we would be only too glad to hear from you.

ENGLAND—IRELAND BATTLE AT THE PHILHARMONIC

By W. STAMP.



WE will be renewing acquaintance with some old friends in both teams when England meet Ireland at the Philharmonic Hall on Friday, January 23, and although the Irish team have to travel, they must look on this as a home fixture because for over 20 years this match has been played in Liverpool where they have received as warm a welcome as the English players.

The English team includes Johnny Leach, Aubrey Simons, Brian Kennedy, Allan Rhodes and Diane Rowe. It is possible that the remaining place will be filled by Ann Haydon, the 16 years old up-and-coming star from Birmingham who has just returned with the Junior Girls' title from the French Open where she also reached the final of the Womens Doubles partnered by Joyce Roberts.

Johnny Leach has been resting for a month on doctor's orders as his Japanese tour took a lot out of him and was the cause of him not being able to defend his title in the recent Merseyside. Brian Kennedy was also unable to compete on that occasion due to a throat operation, but he is now thoroughly recovered and, partnering Aubrey Simons, won the French Open Doubles when they beat Michael Lansky and Rene Roothoof after five strenuous games.

French Success

Allan Rhodes, of Middlesex, is a newcomer but comes here with a good record. We are pleased to welcome Diane Rowe, who succeeded twin sister Rosalind as holder of the French Women's Singles title when she beat Trudi Pritzi, of Austria—in fact, our team took four of the major titles at

these championships a fortnight ago, and would appear to be on top of their form.

The Irish team is as follows:—Victor Mercer, Harry O'Prey, K. H. Campbell, S. Clerkin, and Misses D. Fearon and J. E. Owens. Their star player is undoubtedly Victor Mercer, who had a tremendous run of successes last season when he won the Irish Open and Closed Championships and almost every other Open Singles title in Ireland.

Worthy Fighter

O'Prey is also an old friend and is possibly the best fighter of them all. Campbell and Clerkin are two of the younger school, the latter being very quick with a most useful half volley.

The two girls are making their first appearance here and we will try and make them feel at home, because the Philharmonic does tend to overawe even some of the more experienced players.

At the corresponding match last year against Wales, we had a "sell out." This can be repeated if we have the wholehearted support of our own members and their friends.

The Cheshire Open Championships are being staged by the Wirral League at Livingstone Street Baths, Birkenhead, on February 19/21, and I hope many of you will support the tournament. I have arranged that entry forms should be sent to some of our clubs, but further supplies can be obtained from me or the organising secretary, Mr. N. H. Holland, 25 Claremount Road, Wallasey. The closing date for entries is Saturday, February 7.

A Week of Surprises

By J. D. Loughrey.

IN a week of many surprises the early rounds of the Maxwell Fyfe and D. M. Foulis Cups left only one survivor with a handicap of less than ten.

This may have been due to a certain severity by the handicappers on some of the more illustrious entrants, but there was a suggestion that one or two realised a little too late that they would have to play at their very best to have a chance of winning and a few decided early on that it was not worth the effort.

To these remarks there is at least one exception. All in all I make Rimmer's 29—31 defeat by Bruce in the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. final as the most heroic performance of the week.

Shot of Season

Bruce was in truly magnificent form, but the Lucem player never gave up and deserves great praise for reducing an initial seven-point deficit. One point cannot be passed without mention. Bruce played a tremendously powerful forehand drive which Rimmer returned in masterly fashion but Bruce following up with the impetus of his first stroke, crashed the ball down the other wing with such force that the ball became a blurred streak.

I don't think I have ever seen a ball hit so hard, not even going back to the best days of Vana pre-war.

At several of the centres First Division players went out early on, and only M. Morrison, of 15th Crosby, remains to fight for the honour of the division. It seemed that M. Lijinski (Anfield) would prevail at Lussac but an inspired spell by George Williams (Victoria Park) saw yet another defeat for a senior player.

A strange feature which recurred time and again was the way the more heavily handicapped player would catch his opponent, often as early as 22-all, and then fail to win the game, suggesting a faulty outlook on the art of play in such a tournament.

As a result of the Maxwell Fyfe ties we have no fewer than six Second

Division representatives left, together with one from the first, while the regions all have one apiece except the Central who have two. The handicaps range from three players with 11 to J. Donnelly on the 18 mark.

Anfield (Bruce and Hughes), Liverpool Y.M.C.A. (Rigby and Bradshaw) and Panto (Fowler and Mason) all have two representatives in the finals.

Fine Achievement

If anyone could have been expected to grimly fight her way through an evening with a heavy handicap it was Mrs. B. Waterson, of Lofters, so for once the prediction came true. At Bohemians, despite heavy challenge in each round, she emerged the winner.

There were however plenty of surprises in the Foulis Cup also, perhaps the biggest being A. Keightley's overwhelming defeat of L. May whom she defeated in two straight. In the second game she actually scored more points than the Rafter's girl.

Possibly the best balanced evening was at Balfour where some exciting struggles took place, one of the best being between E. Murphy and N. Lamb, the latter winning 31—29 in the third. As she went on to beat M. Pattison in the final, Lofters have two representatives for finals night.

At Lofters, L. Jenkins gave a fine display to win through but J. Olsen, with little experience, gave her a good fight. Here too the back-markers were eliminated before the end, though D. Campbell had a desparate struggle to beat D. Millington.

The twelve survivors in the Maxwell Fyfe and the four in the D. M. Foulis will all now appear in the finals.

There were 22 scratchings in the two events but out of 263 entries that is by no means a bad proportion. It was suggested by one of those who scratched that a club colleague should be allowed to take his place with the same handicap.

Scores on Page Nine.

Stamp Cup Comparisons

THE past three weeks have provided some interesting results and have seen several team changes.

The three-a-side Stamp Cup matches make interesting reading and show a comparison between the divisions. Livex just managed to beat Linnet 5-4—Chesham 3, E. Smith 2, Lawson 0, and Mason 2, Green 1 and Short 1, were the set winners. Victoria Park accounted for Bohemians 7-2, when the sets were won by Morris 2, Williams 3, Barratt 2, and Jones and Rycroft one apiece, but they then lost to Oakhill 8-1 (Read 3, Oakes 2, Ross 3, while George Williams gained the Park's one).

Among the expected results were English Electric 0-9 to Acacia (R. Jones, Hobbs and Clewett); Oakhill (Oakes, Ross and Grant) 9-0 over Aigburth Methodists; African Oil 2-7 to Rafter's, Pierce beating brother Ted and Varty your humble.

Took a Risk

Balfour have not yet played their strongest trio and they seem to change their team according to the opposition. They took a risk against Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and only won 5-4 (Morley 2, Wong 1 and Wilcocks 2 for Balfour and Mandeluff 3, Bradshaw 1 and Rigby 0 for Y.M.C.A.)

In league matches, Anfield have had Lijinsky at No. 1. Back to form he recently inflicted on Bill Pierce his second defeat in league games 22-20, 21-19. But Lijinsky was himself defeated by Varty 21-7, 21-17 in a game which African Oil won 6-4.

Bohemians have recently included R. McManus in their team and dropped Holdsworth from No. 2 to No. 5 to regain his confidence.

Livex on their own table beat a weakened Acacia 6-4. Vic Chesham, now playing well, won his sets 21-19, 21-5 v. Roy Jones and 24-22, 21-12 v. Rowan, and E. Smith beat Hobbs 21-12, 21-12. Clewett and Blunn came in for Egerton and Andree Jones.

Balfour have been weakened in recent games by the absence of Reg. Hetherington and Norman Jones, yet they beat

African Oil Mills 6-4, Morley and Wilcocks coming in to win a set apiece.

In Eileen Mansell they are almost assured of two sets at No. 5. In the 5-5 draw with 15th Crosby she played brilliantly to beat Coogan 21-19 and Delamere 21-17, both in the third. Les Davies beat his pre-war clubmate Fred Bamford 21-19 in the third. Bernard Hand beat Norman Jones and Wilcocks.

Players at Nos. 1 and 2 with over 75 per cent. in league matches are:—E. J. Rumjahn 95 per cent.; W. Pierce 91 per cent.; R. M. Rumjahn 82 per cent.; Roy Jones and Frank Varty 77 per cent.

For league matches and cup matches the following head the list:—E. J. Rumjahn 89 per cent.; Pierce 84 per cent.; R. M. Rumjahn 84 per cent.; R. Jones 78 per cent.; Chesham 78 per cent. and P. Rumjahn 77 per cent.

Other than those playing Nos. 1 and 2, the following are doing exceptionally well:—L. Davies 86 per cent.; B. Townsend 77 per cent. and Miss Mansell 75 per cent.

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HARD MATCHES ARE THE ORDER

THE Liverpool Y.M.C.A. boys are a good example of what hard practise and team spirit can do to help an ordinary side to the top.

They have changed players right and left to get a winning side and the selection committee must have hands full of splinters trying to decide who to drop next. But when they visited Lucem in a league match, after arriving late due to pre-match practise in their own club, they left late with a 7-3 victory to their credit.

Gone too, was our only 100 per cent. individual record when J. Rimmer, Lucem's No. 1, was defeated by D. Rigby and E. Mandeluff (Y.M.C.A.'s Nos. 1 and 2) and from what I experienced of the team, they will take some stopping this half.

Merited Honour

Anfield, the division leaders, deserve their position. The present line-up of C. Fay, J. Hughes, T. Killip, D. Bruce and K. Coney, defeated Cheshire Lines on the Allerton club's table 6-4 almost before my report in last month's magazine about Cheshire Lines not having been beaten at home for five years, had a chance to get dry.

Just goes to show maybe I better be quiet in future. But one thing is certain. This division is not a one-horse race, as the tables will prove, so I hope no one is getting big-headed. Anfield, Liverpool Y.M.C.A., Victoria Park or Lucem should do it, though Bootle Y.M.C.A., Oakhill, Wavertree or I.C.I. could be awkward.

It is interesting to note that in the last 18 league matches played, only one drawn game has resulted. That was between Oakhill A and Waterloo Dock at Kensington, and these two teams really fought it out. E. Wall (Oakhill's No. 1) was beaten by J. Seddon 19-21, 21-18, 18-21. R. Platt (Oakhill's pen holder), who always works like mad to win, pipped C. J. Dunn (Dock's skipper) 21-19, 21-17 to level, but L. G. Burrows (Waterloo Dock) beat Vic Imundy 14-21, 21-12, 21-10. A. Byrne put the Dock ahead by beating R. Holt 21-14, 18-21, 21-16. So it went on until M. Hamill (Oakhill) and Seddon (Waterloo Dock) both won two sets for their respective sides and a draw was a good verdict.

One thing that strikes me about this game more so than others, is the contrast in styles, and the queer play of some players. Derek Jones (I.C.I.) for instance, with his wooden bat can shake the best of players by half-volley, and Liverpool Y.M.C.A.'s A. Roberts is a queer type too. Maybe they're not orthodox, but they get results. Sometimes you wonder how!

Personally, I think everybody takes the game too seriously. Relax, let's have a friendly evening, win or loose, enjoy yourself. Most people seem to suffer in silence.

In the Readman Cup, Victoria Park were beaten 9-1 by African Oil, and Lucem scored a 10-0 win over Old Xaverians. But I.C.I., when faced by Linnet, leaders of Division 3, let us down by losing 7-3, but in true I.C.I. spirit, they fought all the way.

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RAFTERS MAINTAIN CHALLENGE

AT this half stage review very little has occurred since our last notes. Rafters emerge as the team of the moment, having fulfilled my expectations by following up their victory over Cadwa with an 8-2 success over Litherland.

This latter success, impressive as it was, was somewhat marred by what appeared to be an ill-timed selection of A. C. Taylor to represent one of the City teams. This doubtful compulsory honour weakened Litherland, their usual good start was not forthcoming and Rafters naturally enough did not look their gift horse in the mouth and cantered home comfortable winners.

I must make it clear that no complaints have come from A. C. Taylor or from the Litherland club. It may be that Rafters would have won anyway, the score indicates such and I for one believe they would, but it is certain also that Rafters would have preferred to beat Litherland's strongest.

Aid Not Wanted

One point which does arise is the request from the management for clubs to avoid Friday as a match night. If, as in this case, management approval is given, and Rafters do not hide the fact that it is primarily intended to enable their strongest team to be fielded, it should be ensured that visiting clubs do not suffer.

Another person with very strong views in this matter is Jimmy Green, captain of Linnet. His team now move into the lead as a result of this match and while Mr. Green can think of nothing better than sitting on top, he too does not like the implication that he is there by grace of the Liverpool Selection Committee.

Let us hope that some clear cut decisions can be made in our 1953 matches which will remove all doubt as to the worthiness of the champions, whoever they may turn out to be, although it appears very doubtful if such will be the case.

There are still four teams very much in the picture. Rafters and Victoria Park have both done well enough

against the teams above them but are prone to slip up on supposedly easier matches. Linnet and Litherland on the other hand appear to run much truer to form but will it be the senior representatives of Linnet and Litherland or the reserves of the stronger clubs? Your guess is as good as mine.

The Rumjahn Cup, exclusive competition of the Third and Fourth Divisions, is now being fought for and I am pleased to note that our divisional representatives disposed of their Division 4 rivals in each of the six first round matches. A special bouquet for Anfield who showed us they can win a match by beating St. Michael's.

Unfortunately in the next round we have to cut our own throats, several of our possibles meeting each other, notably Victoria Park and Linnet.

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Speed Up Your Play

THE past few weeks having seen the start of the struggles for cup honours, I had an opportunity of watching a game between a Fourth Division team and a team from the top half of the Third Division.

In strokes and tactics the Fourth Division team had nothing to learn from their opponents, but, and let me underline this, the Third Division team were twice as fast on the ball. There is no team in our division nearly as fast as this Third Division team; odd individuals, yes, but not a whole team from No. 1 right down to No. 5.

Four years ago I was playing with a First Division team, where quick hitting is the normal thing, but having seen little or nothing of First Division play since then and playing in the Fourth Division for the past two seasons, I have become used to the more leisurely pace of the play.

It, therefore, came as a shock to me to realise what a difference there could be even between a Fourth Division team

and a Third Division team in this matter of picking the ball up quickly.

Here is a New Year's resolution for most players in the division. Speed up play and, please, that does not mean simply hitting harder, but it certainly does mean hitting sooner, which will, however, make the ball travel faster.

One team I imagine, who will give this suggestion every consideration is Bath Street, who impress me as the keenest team in the league. Every player seems to be an enthusiast, and I can imagine that every suggestion aimed at improvements in performance will certainly be considered by them.

Incidentally, of course, Bath Street are already one of the fastest playing teams in the division, but their game can still speed up quite considerably, when compared with play in higher divisions.

I am sorry to see that Harold House were unable to raise a full team for their last home match. Particularly surprising is this in view of the size of the club and the amenities at Chatham Street.

HANDICAP CUPS

RESULTS in the Maxwell Fyfe and D. M. Foulis Cups were:—
Maxwell Fyfe Cup

Lofters :—K. Fenerty (Brenka 14) beat R. Ferris (Bootle Y.M.C.A. 17) 31—26, 31—25.

Lucem :—J. Hughes (Anfield 14) beat A. Greensmith (Anfield 11) 31—27, 31—22; A. R. Fowler (Panto 17) beat J. Brierley (Anfield 17) 31—27, 32—34, 31—26.

Lussac :—G. Williams (Victoria Park 11) beat M. Lijinsky (Anfield 9) 31—22 31—27.

Brenka :—J. Donnelly (Everton Y.M.C.A. 18) beat P. Kelly (Old Xavs. 17) 31—26 31—27.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. :—D. Bruce (Anfield 15) beat J. Rimmer (Lucem 7) 31—29 31—27.

Linnet :—R. Mason (Panto 17) beat E. Mandeluff (Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 11) 31—23 31—28.

Anfield :—T. C. Smith (Old Xavs. 17) beat E. Handley (Old Xavs. 17) 24—31 31—28 31—28.

Continued on page 16.

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LEAGUE TABLES

First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour	12	10	1	1	83	37	21
African Oil ...	12	8	1	3	70	50	19
15th Crosby	12	5	2	5	62	58	15 7
Balfour "A"	12	6	4	2	66	54	14 6
Acacia	12	5	4	3	63	57	13
Rafters	12	5	4	3	63	57	13
Anfield	12	5	4	3	60	60	13
Livex	12	5	6	1	59	61	11
Oakhill	12	4	5	3	57	63	11
Rafters "A"	12	3	9	0	53	67	6
Bohemians	12	2	9	1	41	79	5
Balfour "B"	12	1	10	1	43	77	3

Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Anfield "A"	12	8	1	3	71	49	19
Liverpool Y.M.	12	8	2	2	86	34	18
Lucem	12	7	3	2	71	49	16
Victoria Park	12	7	3	2	70	50	16
Cheshire Lines	12	5	3	4	64	56	14
Boole Y.M.C.A.	12	5	3	4	63	57	14
Oakhill "A"	12	3	3	6	59	61	12
Wavertree C.C.	12	4	3	5	55	65	11
I.C.I.	12	4	6	2	57	63	10
Waterloo Dock	12	2	7	3	50	70	7
Balfour "C"	12	3	8	1	48	72	7
L.P.A.S.	12	0	12	0	26	94	0

Third Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Litherland ...	12	9	1	2	85	35	20
Linnetts	12	8	1	3	83	37	19
Rafters "B"...	12	8	2	2	78	42	18
Victoria Park A	12	8	2	2	73	47	18
Cadwa	12	7	3	2	73	47	16
Tech. Students	12	6	6	0	58	62	12
Eng. Electric	12	4	5	3	52	68	11
Osterly	12	3	5	4	58	62	10
Bohemians "A"	12	4	7	1	53	67	9
Linacre	12	2	9	1	38	82	5
Oakhill "B"	12	2	9	1	33	87	5
Anfield "B"...	12	0	11	1	36	84	1

Fourth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
L'pool Y.M. 'A'	12	10	0	2	89	31	22
African Oil "A"	12	9	2	1	71	49	19
Bath Street	12	7	2	3	76	44	17
W'tree c.c. 'A'	11	7	1	3	68	42	17
Bohemians "B"	12	5	4	3	62	58	13
Livex "A" ...	12	3	4	5	53	67	11
Boole Y.M. 'A'	11	4	5	2	59	51	10
St. Michaels	12	3	6	3	53	67	9
Aigburth	12	3	8	1	45	75	7
*Domestic Miss	11	3	7	1	43	67	7
Harold House	12	1	9	2	43	77	4
R.A.F.A. (Liv.)	11	1	8	2	38	72	4

WOMEN'S—Division I

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bibbys	12	11	0	1	91	29	23
Balfour	12	10	2	0	93	27	20
Lofters	12	8	0	4	84	36	20
Bohemians ...	12	5	3	4	68	52	14
Oakhill	12	6	4	2	68	52	14
Rafters	12	4	2	6	65	55	14
Linnetts	12	6	6	0	62	58	12
Littlewoods ...	12	3	7	2	50	70	8
Cheshire Lines	12	2	6	4	48	72	8
Leyfield	12	1	7	4	35	85	6
Anfield	12	1	8	3	39	81	5
Aigburth	12	0	12	0	17	103	0

WOMEN'S—Division II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Linnetts "A"	12	10	1	1	83	37	21
Waterloo Park	12	9	2	1	75	45	19
Wavertree C.C.	12	8	3	1	73	47	17
Brenka	12	7	2	3	72	48	17
Osterly	12	7	4	1	73	47	15
Lofters "A"	12	5	4	3	65	55	13
Bohemians 'A'	12	4	6	2	52	68	10
Ogdens	11	3	5	3	59	51	9
Littlewoods 'A'	11	4	6	1	49	61	9
Beauclair ...	12	3	6	3	54	66	9
Catholic Metro	12	1	11	0	23	97	2
Lucem	12	0	11	1	32	88	1

NORTH REGIONAL I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Waterloo Park	11	11	0	0	94	16	22
Brenka	10	9	1	0	72	28	18
Lofters	11	7	2	2	72	38	16
English Elec. A	11	8	3	0	67	43	16
Littlewoods ...	12	6	4	2	61	59	14
Everton Y.M.	12	6	5	1	68	52	13
Litherland "A"	10	5	4	1	50	50	11
W'loo Dock 'A'	12	4	6	2	51	69	10
W'breck Moor	12	3	8	1	44	76	7
R.A.F. M'ments	12	2	8	2	43	77	6
*Tech. Studs. A	11	1	10	0	36	74	2
15th Crosby A	12	0	11	1	22	98	1

NORTH REGIONAL II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Raw Cott. Com	12	10	0	2	91	29	22
Maghull B/C	12	9	2	1	75	45	19
Lofters "A"	11	9	2	0	71	39	18
Boole Y.M. 'B'	12	8	3	1	79	41	17
Litherland "B"	12	5	3	4	72	48	14
W'loo Park 'A'	11	5	3	3	69	41	13
St. Dominics	12	6	6	0	54	66	12
Eng. Elec. "B"	12	5	7	0	57	63	10
Anfield "D"	10	2	7	1	38	62	5
W'loo Park B	11	2	9	0	34	76	4
Tech. Studs. B	12	1	11	0	27	93	2
*Boole Police	11	1	10	0	23	87	2

SOUTH REGIONAL

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
V'toria Park 'B'	12	11	0	1	99	21	23
Linnets "A"	12	10	0	2	98	22	22
Beauclair ...	12	9	2	1	86	34	19
*A'burth Meths	11	7	3	1	75	35	15
W'tree C.C. "B"	12	7	4	1	70	50	15
C'hire Lines 'A'	12	6	5	1	70	50	13
Linnets "C"	11	5	4	2	50	60	12
Lucem "B" ...	12	4	6	2	55	65	10
Cadwa "B"	12	3	9	0	39	81	6
St. Peters Y.C.	12	1	10	1	28	92	3
C'hire Lines 'B'	12	1	10	1	22	98	3
Vauxhall Sports	12	0	11	1	18	102	1

EAST REGIONAL

V'toria Park 'C'	12	10	1	1	89	31	21
Holly Mount	12	9	1	2	88	32	20
Cadwa "A"	12	9	2	1	82	38	19
Vagabonds ...	12	7	2	3	74	46	17
Old Xaverians	12	8	4	0	80	40	16
Balfour "D"	12	6	3	3	73	47	15
Leyfield.....	12	5	6	1	58	62	11
Osterly "A"	12	3	7	2	46	74	8
W'tree Labour	12	3	8	1	46	74	7
L.P.A.S. "A"	12	1	9	2	42	78	4
Beauclair "A"	12	1	10	1	23	97	3
Comet	12	1	10	1	19	101	3

CENTRAL REGIONAL

Panto	12	11	1	0	104	16	22
Lucem "A"	12	10	1	1	93	27	21
L'pool Y.M. 'B'	12	8	3	1	70	50	17
Vagabonds "A"	12	7	3	2	66	54	16
Oakhill "C"	12	6	5	1	67	53	13
Linnets "B"	12	6	6	0	69	51	12
Lussac	12	5	6	1	58	62	11
Catholic Metro	12	5	6	1	57	63	11
Anfield "C"	11	5	6	0	53	57	10
Leyfield "A"	11	2	9	0	21	89	4
I.C.I. "A" ...	12	1	10	1	23	97	3
Old X'rians A	12	0	10	2	29	91	2

* Score cards for home match, week commencing 12th Jan, 1953 not received in time for inclusion in these tables. (G.W.)

THE Hon. Fixture Secretary regrets that during the past few weeks certain clubs have been getting very lax in connection with the posting of score cards, and the League Tables published in this issue are incomplete in a few places, due entirely to failure to comply with previous requests for the score cards to be posted on the night of the match.

A more important point which has arisen, is the fact that several clubs have recently been found to have been inserting scores on cards for games which have in fact NOT been played, owing to the absence of one of the players concerned. The Management Committee take a serious view of this practice, and point out that it is liable to lead to the suspension or expulsion of the players and/or clubs concerned.

Mrs. CASSELMAN REPLIES

WE have received the following letter from Mrs. Kathleen Casselman:—

On behalf of my sister, Peter and Ronnie Rumjahn and myself, who I believe are four of the players concerned, I would like to answer the criticism in your December issue regarding local players who scratched on the Saturday afternoon of the Merseyside tournament.

We should like your readers to know that, realising that it was extremely unlikely that we should be able to attend on the Saturday afternoon we did not enter without giving the matter due consideration and made our final decision for the following reasons:

- (a) It could not be presumed that we could get through to Saturday.
- (b) Local players should support the Merseyside tournament as far as possible.
- (c) Players representing the City should enter the City tournaments to prove their place — especially in the case of the ladies who do not play in the Ladies' Division.

Before sending in our entry forms we consulted Mr. Stamp as Tournament Secretary, who stated that he should prefer us to enter.

We only wish that we could be in two places at the same time but realising that this is not possible, we do the best we can.

Regionaires Set Them Example

By J. H. C. HUGHES

IN 1929 I got to know a young Londoner who was in temporary residence in Liverpool, and on finding he was keen on table tennis introduced him to the League by getting him to sign for my then club, St. Hilary's, Wallasey.

He was then a penholder of more than average ability and before returning to London managed to win the Closed League Men's Doubles in partnership with our present chairman, Don Foulis. He was then a member of the old Thingwall Club.

Now what has all this to do with the Readman Cup match, Brenka v. Liverpool Y.M.C.A. ? Simply that the young Londoner was Bobby Readman, the donor of the cup, and knowing the pride and care he used to take in seeing all he did was correct, I do not think he would have been very pleased with parts of this match.

Late Start

First it did not start until 8-20, due to the late arrival of the visitors. Now I know Brenka is a good way out and that once you enter the gates you have still to walk to the canteen, but catching a bus due to leave town at 7-30 for that is what the Y.M. cup team told me they did, is not time enough for a match that, according to the rule, should start at that time.

Then there was the matter of dress—collars and ties, shirts and pullovers of totally different colours and one player who never even bothered to take off the windjammer-cum-jerkin he was wearing in lieu of a jacket. This is not only breaking the rules but is discourteous to your opponent. It may not be intended but that does not alter the fact.

The rules of the League are made by the members, though it is surprising how many never seem to have read them. The Management are elected to manage the League according to those rules, and any officer failing to point out such breaches is not doing his duty.

I should like to congratulate Brenka; with their shirts and badges they set a good example, as did Mandeluff of the Y.M.C.A.

Mandeluff was far the most outstanding player. He has some queer

mannerisms but never played down to his opponents and his all-round game was splendid.

I hear that he recently won all his three games against Balfour in the Stamp Cup, and seems to merit the consideration of the selectors.

Punch Missing

Rigby on this showing was not as impressive as last season.

For Brenka, Fenerty played well, with nice flowing strokes, but he lacked the final punch. Morley had the punch but was too erratic, and I lost count of the number of times he calmly returned his opponents' serve into the net.

A word for Secretary Todhunter—he not only umpired several games but prepared the interval refreshments. Just another unsung hardworking secretary.

The regional team tried hard but the score of 10—0 for the Y.M.C.A. was a fair reflection.

It was a match that never got away from mediocrity and though the victory went to the best team, the honours apart from those to Mandeluff, went to the losers.

Brief

The secret is out. Many visitors to Lofters have puzzled how Mr. Neill and company got their table into their playing room. Simple—they cut and took up the floorboards and now they sleep sound knowing that anybody would have a hard job to steal their table.

Jack Bennett and H. Mackenzie, of R.A.F. Movements, are now overseas but they are not forgotten in the North Region from whom good luck wishes go to both.

Cycling in the fog Frank Magee, of English Electric B, met with a bad accident. From the league and the North Region in particular, go sincere wishes for a speedy recovery.

Victoria Park believe they have a lad of great promise in their new signing, M. Truman, who, at 17, is one of the leading lights of the L.B.A. league and has been coached by one of the Rumjahn

OGDEN'S MISSED THEIR CHANCE

WATERLOO Park must have considered themselves lucky to win 6-4 when they visited Ogden's, and I'm afraid the home team, who are also making their debut this season, have only themselves to blame for failing to at least force a draw.

They had a flying start winning the first three sets, and their lead was increased to 4-2 when Chris Gleed won the first set after the interval, but it proved to be their last.

Chris (without a doubt the best player of the evening) had no difficulty in disposing of D. Campbell 11 and 17, and E. Daniels 5 and 14; E. Gleed beat J. Pedley (who was only a shadow of the player seen knocking up before the match) 14 and 19, and A. Haughton had a comfortable win over a very nervous E. Scott 9 and 18.

Chris Gleed, who has only dropped two sets this season, deserved rather better support from her team who failed to take advantage of their chances and often lost vital points by carelessness. With a little more will to win they are a side capable of better results.

Gained Confidence

Waterloo gained confidence as the match progressed and they became more accustomed to the distracting "noises off" which spoiled the otherwise excellent playing conditions—to be better still, I hear, when they get their new table. A little co-operation from the snooker players during matches would, I am sure, be appreciated.

E. Daniels' defeat of K. King, who played well but just could not clinch the games, together with B. McWhinney's success against W. Fricker 13-12, 21-17, 21-16, did much to bolster the Waterloo side. Their captain D. Campbell had little difficulty after the interval in reducing the deficit by beating E. Gleed 14 and 15, and a much improved J. Pedley who is a young player worthy of encouragement, levelled the score by beating A. Haughton 16 and 17. B. McWhinney and E. Scott added the other two sets.

It was third time lucky for Linnett when they beat Bohemians 7-3. It will be remembered that both their matches were drawn last season.

Lofters' greatest achievement to date was their 6-4 New Year victory over Balfour, thereby exchanging places with them as runners-up to Bibby's. I think I am right in stating they are only the third team to have beaten Balfour since the war.

Highlight of the match was the ding-dong attacking set between M. Evans and J. Lloyd, both on top form, which Joyce won 21-18, 19-21, 26-24. Joyce, home for the occasion from the Police Training College, also accounted for A. Brunskill, who up until then had only dropped one set this season.

Beryl Waterson, who by steady progress is fast consolidating her position as one of our leading players, also won both her sets against O. Dickenson and A. Brunskill, and N. Lamb and D. Hogg did their share by each winning a set. Winners for Balfour were O. Dickenson, who has only dropped two sets this season, L. Robinson, M. Evans and A. Allen.

Team to Watch

Oakhill will be considerably strengthened by the return of I. Crafter as No. 1, and will be a team to watch as their only weakness so far has been the lack of a regular No. 5.

Domestic worries have hampered Rafters in living up to their reputation, as apart from O. Southall and J. Brennand, who have both played regularly and well, they have not fielded the same team two weeks running. They can claim, however, to have the most drawn matches to their credit.

Despite lapses of form D. Millington, now playing regularly as No. 1 for Littlewood's, has achieved some rather remarkable victories, including G. Brown, A. Brunskill and B. Waterson.

Stein Farrell is the only player with an unbeaten league record so far this season and together with A. Williams is slowly but surely rebuilding a new-look Beauclair into a forceful side. H. Baldwin, playing at No. 3, has shown marked improvement.

Osterley can boast victories over Wavertree and Brenka. Their best successes are R. Trampnow and M. O'Donnell, with 14 sets from 11 matches and P. Lewis 14 sets from 9 matches.

Our Book has been Blotted

I am displeased. In less than a week of the New Year I find one team in our first division being represented by two players only. Nor has any explanation been offered to the opposing club secretary, the fixture secretary or myself.

Also a league match was substituted by a Readman Cup-tie without my being acquainted by the club concerned. Imagine my embarrassment some days later when the league's vice-chairman told me he had been present at the match.

In our second division a home team was a player short. The North Region 1953 has its first page made unsightly by big black blots. Again I draw the attention of secretaries and players to Rule 32 on page 29 of the league handbook.

Uneasy Feeling

Reviewing the first half of the season with a view to sorting out likely candidates for the regional team leaves me not a little uneasy. There was a time when only the Nos. 1 and 2 of a team had to be considered. That was when teams had to play in order of merit.

That still appertains with some clubs but not with others. My own opinion is that merit should define the order of play but many do not agree with me. Here are the outstanding North Region players for the first ten matches showing their records and in brackets the positions in which they have played:—

Division 1.—J. Cantwell possible 20 won 17 (2 3) Miss Dot Davies 20—17 (5) J. Redmond 20—15 (1) H. Moores 20—15 (1 2) N. Williams 20—16 (3 4 5) J. Bennett, 16—14 (1), R. Russell 18—13 (2, 3), R. Musker, 20—18 (3, 4, 5), W. Kinrade 18—17 (1).

Division 2.—Ian Rogerson, 18—16 (2, 3), H. Sanderson, 20—17 (2, 3, 4), J. Millin, 18—16 (4, 5), J. R. Owen, 20—16 (1), T. Mills, 20—17 (1, 2, 3), D. Hine, 14—12 (1, 2).

It will be seen that of these 15 players only five have played consistently in the same team position.

The increase in the number of women in regional divisions is extraordinary. We have 13 in our two divisions. It is my intention to challenge women playing in the other regions to meet the North. Maybe it is now possible to

have inter-regional women's competition without any of the former difficulties and maybe some influential person will provide medals as Mr. Micklesfield does for the men?

Topics I have been hearing discussed with animation cover the Readman Cup. It has been suggested by players from the premier divisions that the Regions should be barred from the competition. Reasons put forward include travelling long distances with the result a foregone conclusion. There have been two instances cited. Each result was 10—0, with not one individual match going to three games.

I think that team players and not club secretaries should decide whether they wish to enter the Readman Cup. I do not enter my teams in the competition.

Cup Proposal

What do you think of this suggestion? The Maxwell Fyfe Cup to be drawn in the first instance in three sections—Divisions 1 and 2, Divisions 3 and 4, and the four regions, and then handicapped within themselves. The finalists from the first two sections to comprise, with the four regional semi-finalists, the last eight competitors to be re-handicapped.

It would also be of interest to know how many clubs detail a reserve for home matches and a travelling reserve for away matches, and how many players are big-hearted and loyal enough to maintain the obligations of a reserve.

For the benefit of a particular young player whose behaviour has been noted by a premier division team when visiting his club—you are good but not nearly so good as you think you are. Don't get a head too big or it will cramp your style, and stop playing in another room during a match so that you have to be sent for. You have given the impression you are without manners and your captain without responsibility.

Let us all think over these things and resolve to play as good sportsmen should. Be sociable and well mannered to your visitors; take a genuine interest in the appearance and tidiness of your club. By attention to these things you can create much pleasure and interest; by indifference your visitors are glad to leave and reluctant to return.

LADIES WERE BARRED HERE

AFTER the Christmas vacation we are now into the second half of the season, and a crowded programme lies ahead. In addition to league and cup matches the South Region tournament will be held in the near future. As usual there will be three events open to players of either sex and we hope to get a 100 per cent. entry.

I am also playing off trials for the South Region team but am trying a new method this year. From a list of "possibles" I chose five to play the Linnet first team, with results which materially helped me. Matches will be arranged with other club sides in which other players will be given a trial, and from these games the final team will be selected, but I would impress on you that if you have not yet been asked to play you may still be on the list. So keep battling.

A Keen Team

I went to St. Peter's and was agreeably surprised. Although near the foot of the table I predict a vast improvement next season, for they are all dead keen. So keen are they that the female element was excluded from the match lest they distract the males.

They have, however, a lot of hard work on strokes and tactics ahead of them before they rise to the top. That they can do it I am certain; that they will remain to be seen, but I hope that they do. We need more new clubs competing for honours and with diligent practice St. Peter's can be one of these.

Cheshire Lines A ran into trouble against Linnet C and left the points behind them. J. Grayson and G. Kettle each won two for the Railwaymen but their colleagues each "bagged a pair" and the Linnets won 6-4.

Linnet C wagged the tail to some effect, Ronnie Baker and Brian Parry each winning two, and D. Challoner and D. Walter one each. These four are all teenagers. Brian, 14, and Challoner 15, are the babes, with Baker (16) and Dennis Walter (18) only a little their senior. With youngsters like this on the books Linnet can look to the future with every confidence.

Cheshire Lines have disappointed us this year. I am surprised that, when their first team can do so well in the second division, their reserve teams should show so poorly in the region. It is not from lack of ability for they include players of real merit.

Another disappointing team have been Vauxhall, but here there are extenuating circumstances in that they only play one night a week and a match is played every second week which gives them little or no practice time.

But a disappointment for which there was no excuse were Linnet A in the Hyde Cup match with Lofters. Leading 4-1 they were so confident that they allowed Lofters to fight back to draw. In the replay Lofters won 6-4 at Waterloo. Black mark Linnet A.

When you have your club tournaments or social events, please let me have either the results or an invitation to attend. Many clubs run tournaments and these are of decided interest to their friends in the region, so please let me have details.

Whitty's

for

TABLE TENNIS

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VITAL MATCH IN CHAMPIONSHIP

SINCE the last issue we have had the usual Christmas break and only one league match has been played. This leaves the league positions very much as before except for some slight changes due to sets averages.

By the time the league tables are compiled (one week later than these notes), the very vital match of Cadwa A v. Victoria Park C will have been played and a win by either will clearly denote the leaders by a points margin. A draw will even more complicate things as if Hollymount win, the leading three teams will all possess 20 points and once again sets average will play its part.

Thus we can say our region has every chance of retaining its interest almost until the last match of the season.

Also during this coming week the second round of the Hyde Cup is due to be played off and I expect Victoria Park and possibly Hollymount still to go into the hat for the third round draw consisting of sixteen teams. May we trust the draw keeps our regions teams from being paired off together.

First Point

I have great pleasure in noting that Comet have at last registered their first point. This is due to their having the assistance, temporarily of their No. 1, Huyton, who, I believe, is usually unavailable due to National Service.

Their partial success gives great thought to the effect that only one player can make upon a team. His absence or presence not only makes probable the loss or gain of two sets, but can cause each of the four others to play either above or below their normal level.

This fact brings team selection into relief—do we put the reserve in at No. 1 and leave the others as usual or at No. 5 and all move up one place? I personally think it makes for a better chance of success to play in reserve in the place of the absentee, especially if such a place is high up in the team strength.

On several occasions this season I have known matches to finish very late, and when juniors or ladies are in the teams this fact can surely spoil the evening for them. Whilst no one can foresee or avoid the match which goes to three sets per event and possibly long sets into the bargain, I feel many matches start too late and also too long is taken in knock-ups and in between events especially the tea break.

Let us all start the New Year with the resolutions, to start early, not to waste time, and to keep the match running smoothly.

STOP PRESS

Victoria Park C 8, Cadwa A 2—for Cadwa only Cohen won his two games.

Comet 6, Beauclair A 4—congratulations to you Comet.

Handicap Cups—Continued from page 9.

African Oil Mills :—D. Rigby (Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 11) beat A. Roberts (Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 14) 31—26 31—28.

Waterloo Park :—M. Morrison (15th Crosby 11) beat G. Aspinwall (Bath Street 15) 31—33 31—28 32—30.

Victoria Park :—C. Bradshaw (Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 14) beat M. Cohen (Anfield 16) 23—31 31—28 32—30.

Waterloo Dock :—C. Byard (Bootle Y.M.C.A. 15) beat I. Rogerson (Bootle Y.M.C.A. 18) 31—29 31—26.

D. M. Foulis Cup

Linnet :—Miss A. Keightley (C.L.C. 14) beat Miss R. Garner (C.L.C. 14) 31—29 31—28.

Lofters :—Mrs. L. Jenkins (Oakhill 13) beat Miss D. Campbell (Waterloo Park 16) 31—28 31—27.

Balfour :—Miss N. Lamb (Lofters 11) beat Miss M. Pattison (Bohemians 9) 31—26 25—31 31—23.

Bohemians :—Mrs. B. Waterson (Lofters 5) beat Miss L. Robinson (Balfour 10) 31—22 29—31 31—25.

Waterloo Park's Wise Move

SPACE does not permit me to give full details of all the matches I have seen since our last issue.

The first was the Hyde Cup tie between Linnet B and Waterloo Park A when Linnet let their chance of a win slip through their fingers; a replay should not have been necessary.

In the replay at Waterloo, Linnet were without Mrs. J. Tippetts, who convincingly won both her sets in the first meeting, and Waterloo replaced T. Campbell, who lost both his sets. This latter proved a wise move for Rawcliffe won his two sets and ably assisted Waterloo to win 7-3.

My next visit was to Oakhill C v. Panto, and although Panto won 9-1 it was not as easy as it sounds. Mrs. Edna Moore, called on at the last minute to play No. 5, won Oakhill's solitary set. Her sound defensive game and her agility proved too much for Phil Coulter.

Off Night

Oakhill's No. 1, Arthur Upton, had a very off night. Mrs. Upton's face was a picture as she watched hubby play Bob Mason. I'll bet there was a post-mortem in the Upton camp after the game.

Michael Crawford, ex-Burlington, turned out to be Oakhill's new member and I don't doubt that after a little more practice he will strike his old form.

A third game I saw was between Livex and Panto in the fourth round of

the Readman Cup, when Panto had a chance to make a name for themselves. Livex were without Vic Chesham but for a regional side to hold a First division team to 6-4 was no disgrace. Livex's slow table went a long way towards Panto's defeat.

Bert Hargreaves (Panto) is the only player in our region to maintain his 100 per cent. league record. Miss I. Howley (Catholic Metro) lost hers when playing Panto—she went down two straight to Mason but was only beaten 21-19 in the third by Coulter.

Unlucky Metro

The Metro have been fortunate in the long-delayed opening of their new premises, and most of their members have sadly missed the facilities to practice. Doubtless they will soon make up for lost time.

The first trial game for the selection of a regional team takes place on January 30 and the players taking part have already been notified.

I am negotiating for a hall for the regional tournament and should this prove successful secretaries will be notified immediately of the venue and date.

It seems that I am not a very good forecaster, but it is nice to be proved wrong when it means a team picking up an unexpected point as Old Xaverians did against Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B.

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These are your Letters

SIR :—In the December issue you ask for more correspondence. On reading further I found that there were several matters about which I immediately wanted to write.

First let me refer to the article on the Merseyside and the reference to the Rumjahn—Crooke set. I wish your reporter would learn more about the rules governing national open tournaments before writing so glibly about applying the time limit rule.

In the first place the rule is applied by the umpire and not by the referee. The umpire must apply it as there is no option. But it can only be applied when any one game of a set has been in progress for 20 minutes, and in the set in question none of the games lasted that time. So neither the necessity nor the opportunity to apply the rule arose. It was certainly never applied in the third game as suggested by your reporter.

Next a word in the ear of Peter Rumjahn. In his article he says that the Acacia table is high at the ends. I suggest that he brings a spirit level with him next time he plays there. He forgets to mention the defeat he suffered on the table at the hands of Roy Jones. Is it a case of *qui s'excuse, s'accuse* or is it that he so rarely has the opportunity of standing back and admiring a table from a distance !

Why was not Roy Jones included in the list of successful players ? At that stage he had victories over Peter and Ronnie

Rumjahn (both two straight), Reg. Hetherington and Frank Varty.

Finally let me turn to my friend Mr. Hughes. After reading his article I was unable to tell whether it had been written by a table tennis official or by a sanitary inspector. To devote only 5 per cent of his article to actual results is absolute bad reporting. Now we know where all the hot air went to on that night ; Mr. Hughes sat near enough to the blower to have absorbed the whole lot.

Surely readers would rather have read about Roy Jones' treatment of Peter Rumjahn and of his classic game with Crooke which produced such a sustained attack and brilliant defence as is rarely found in club matches. Or of Andree Jones' victories over the two Casselmans, the second of which with Mr. Casselman won the match for Acacia.

No, Mr. Hughes, this was not reporting at its best and we invite you to come along some time and have another try. But please remember that first and foremost we try to cater for the players by giving them the best conditions of which, by the way, you made no mention.

When finances permit we hope to do something for the spectators and V.I.P.'s, but in the meantime we have got both bars of the fire working. Let us know when you are coming Mr. Hughes and we will fit you up with a nice, comfortable seat in Mr. Fabri's ice-box.—T. BLUNN (Acacia).

SIR :—We write this letter to you, not as the expression of a personal viewpoint, but as a request for fair play for the ladies of the Second Division.

No matter what the standard of this particular division may be, the girls who play therein are entitled to a similar amount of space in the *Digest* as each and every one of the other divisions. Yet the November issue of the *Digest* contained not even a mention of the division, let alone any of its teams or players.

All the Regions have a page devoted to their activities, etc., so surely Margaret Lindner could pay an occasional visit to a Second Division match, request news from the other clubs, and from the results formulate an additional column or two.

Perhaps it is Margaret's intention to devote the whole page of the December issue to the Second Division, but whatever the case may be, we feel sure that the new teams of the division, and also the more established ones, would appreciate some recognition of their existence. — OSTERLEY LADIES.

SIR :—Ever since the *Digest* has been published I have just briefly glanced, very briefly I may say, through each issue, due to the fact that in my opinion it is one of the worst publications on table tennis I have ever read.

That opinion has not been arrived at lightly. In the first place, the cover of the magazine does not exactly entice anyone to pick it up and enjoy a pleasant half hour's reading. And if they do what do they find. A bundle of club reports which are not

worth the paper they are written on.

The average person, if asked whether they would like to buy the *Digest*, would naturally wish to see what they were getting, but not so if one wishes to be a member of the Liverpool League. You just have to, like it or not.

How many people would buy the *Digest* if they had a choice? Not many I hazard to say.

I quite sympathise with the Editorial Board, but would respectfully point out that if they wish to publish a T.T. magazine worthy of a good reception it should not be done on a shoestring. The answer is, of course, a *Digest* once every two months or every quarter. The price could be increased to 1/- or even 1/6. Better to have quality rather than quantity.

May I also say a word about the Merseyside Open.

It is obvious that the empty seats in the "Phil" were due to the fact that the public, as well as T.T. enthusiasts, on Merseyside wish to be entertained. If no top-ranking players are present the average person will seek a better night's entertainment elsewhere.

It should also be realised by the Management Committee that when exhibitions like this are staged they are competing with all other forms of entertainment—cinemas, theatres and dances, etc.—and if they wish to make money they will have to give the general public something worthwhile for it.

Give the public and T.T. enthusiasts the stars and the halls will be full—N. HOYER (Technical Students).

PREMIER STATUS IN JEOPARDY

IT can be truly said that the matches in the Lancashire and Cheshire League reflect the general standard of play in our own Liverpool League.

An examination of the current league tables is scarcely encouraging. Each year since the war it has been increasingly difficult for us to maintain the A team in the first division of the league, and indeed, at this juncture, the question arises as to whether our place in the division can be retained at the end of the present season.

The main trouble is the lack of young players coming along to take the place of the older ones. An analysis of the first division players reveals the comparative maturity of the players.

Bite Lacking

Bill Pierce does not appear to have regained the "bite" which his play had before he went into the Forces. He tells me that examinations are to some extent the reason for this pre-occupation

Bernard Hand is another who has now left the Forces and has made several appearances in the B team. Due to the lack of the right type of practice, he made rather heavy weather of tasks which should be within his capabilities.

In their match against Warrington at the I.C.I., the B team received a shock and found themselves at the wrong end of the 3-1 score, particularly as Warrington have yet to notch their first win. However, the team fought back to win 6-4.

The best match of the evening was between Ken Gaulton and Aston, the latter winning 22-20 in the third game. D. Rigby of Liverpool Y.M.C.A. played his first representative match and while having considerable stroke ability, he will benefit from the experience. Our set winners were Hand (2), Gaulton (2), Rigby (1) and the doubles.

The A team's return fixture with Stockport again provided an exciting encounter and once again the result was in doubt until the last point. With the score 5-4 in our favour, Peter Rumjahn was leading 20-13 in the third game against Schofield but that last point proved to be more than elusive and the match was drawn.

Bill Harris, on his first senior outing, played very well and won two sets, his victory over Schofield being particularly good. Our other sets were gained by Rumjahn (2) and N. R. Jones (1).

Results of the matches were:—

Liverpool B 10, Ellesmere Port B 0; Widnes 1, Liverpool B 9; Liverpool B 6, Warrington 4; Stockport 5, Liverpool A 5. Women: Crewe 1, Liverpool 9.

We have three fixtures on January 30, namely:—Bolton A v. Liverpool A; Wirral B v. Liverpool B at R.A.F.A., Oxtun; and Liverpool Women v. Bury at Bohemians.

DIVISION 1.

P. W. L. D. F. A. P.

Bolton A	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Manchester A...	3	2	0	1	19	11	5
Manchester B ...	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
Liverpool A.....	4	1	2	1	18	22	3
Stockport	6	0	3	3	25	35	3
Bolton B	3	0	2	1	10	20	1

DIVISION 3 WEST

Liverpool B.....	6	6	0	0	46	14	12
Runcorn	4	3	1	0	29	11	6
Wirral B	3	2	1	0	21	9	4
Ellesmere Port B	3	1	2	0	9	21	2
Warrington	4	0	4	0	8	32	0
Widnes	4	0	4	0	7	33	0

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Manchester	3	2	0	1	23	7	5
Liverpool	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
Bury	4	1	1	2	21	19	4
Blackpool.....	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
Crewe	3	0	2	1	6	24	1

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