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**TABLE
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DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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Digest

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D. M. Foulis W. Stamp A. Montgomery

COMMENT

THE end of the season brings with it the usual number of matches which have to be played on neutral tables. Remembering the venues of some of the representative and handicap singles events earlier this season, we have been struck rather forcibly by one feature. A few clubs have acted as hosts to an overwhelming degree.

The co-operation of these is worthy of every praise, but it does not seem altogether right that they should have been asked to take on so frequently a job, which, by rights, should be spread as much as possible throughout the clubs.

The application forms at the season's start asked clubs to indicate if they were willing to stage matches. Are we, therefore, to assume so few clubs responded that the League officials were forced to call on the same willing horses repeatedly?

Let us appeal to those who have suitable premises. It should be deemed an honour to stage a representative match, and the officials concerned in organising these events would be only too pleased to 'spread' the matches so that the willing few would not be asked to shoulder a totally unfair proportion of these events.

The relatively low entry in the regional events at the Closed this season has aroused some comment. We must say that with the Regional tournament decided, in most cases, a matter of days before, it is not altogether surprising. There seems reason to examine the whole question more thoroughly, for there seems to be some overlap between the competitions.

May we suggest that the four semi-finalists from each Region come forward to the Closed and play off for the title of Men's Regional Singles Champion, and abolish the present Closed tournament for the Regions.

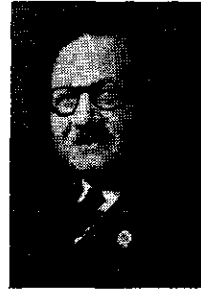
As to the Regional Women's tournaments, we have always felt them to be a most curious competition, with but little rhyme or reason. It must be wrong surely for a woman to be able to win a title though she may never have even played in the region.

It is a matter of regret that the Micklesfield Medals are not to be competed for this season. With the new regional constitution we had anticipated more than usual interest in these matches, but for the first time for many years they have had to be cancelled. May we suggest that there is good reason for playing the matches earlier in the season, and thus avoid congestion later on. We are certain regional secretaries must have a good idea as to form by Christmas.

From the Secretary's Desk

CLUB TOURNAMENTS TO HELP WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

By W. STAMP.



YOU will remember that twelve months ago we asked clubs to sign a form to guarantee £1 towards the guarantee fund for the 1954 World Championships to be held in London. The response was quite good up and down the country, but it is not yet enough.

England is recognised as the home of table tennis and every country is saving up to come here next April with the result that we now expect over 40 countries to compete.

We are responsible for the full hospitality costs of these competing countries once they land in England (hotel, food, etc.), so you will see, therefore, that the original estimate of a loss of £4,000 on the Championships is by no means a gloomy forecast. That is why the E.T.T.A. set up a guarantee fund, to guard against this probable loss.

No State Aid

When the Championships are run in other countries, their governments sponsor and subsidise them, but that does not operate here.

To supplement the donations that have already been promised, the E.T.T.A. are trying to raise money which will give *all players* an opportunity to feel they are taking part. During October, November and December, 1953, they hope that individual clubs will run their own World

Championships Guarantee Fund competitions, i.e., men's and women's open or handicap singles, junior singles or men's, women's or mixed events. The choice is *yours*, the only rule being that they shall be on a knock-out basis.

The entry fees are a total of only 24/- for each singles competition, or 32/- for doubles. It is up to you to charge your members whatever entry fee you decide. The E.T.T.A. will award, with no extra cost, a plaque to the winner of each singles competition and two plaques, one each to the winners of each doubles competition.

Makers' Gesture

These plaques would cost at least a guinea if bought privately, and it is only possible to offer them as prizes for the very low entry fee because the manufacturers are producing them at cost as their contribution to the Championships, which will allow the Association to make a small profit for the guarantee fund.

Many of our clubs are open throughout the close season, or are run in conjunction with a tennis section, and I suggest that here is a good opportunity for some competitive play during the close season, with the winners having something unique to show. I have seen one of the plaques and can assure you they are well worth winning.

Continued on page 13

Fyfe and Foulis Cup Finals

By D. LOUGHREY

THE handicapper of these two tournaments when watching Don Bruce, fortified with his 15 point allowance, proceeding to his inevitable triumph was comforted by the remark that the most improved players of the season would always be the likely winners in the competitions.

There was never any serious doubt that the Anfield player would round off his fine exhibition at the Liverpool Y.M. at Christmas, but Dave Rigby at least made him struggle hard for a time.

Bob Mason also distinguished himself by taking a game from him, though in the final set he never seemed likely to keep ahead after the first few points had been played.

The appearance of George Williams in the final was something of a surprise however. Few people expected him to beat K. Fenerty in the semi-final.

Beryl Waterson provided the first example in the short history of these competitions, of a low handicapped player winning the title. Like Bruce, there was never much doubt of her eventual triumph.

So quickly and surely did she do this that in her four games 31—24 proved to be the closest score. One can only conjecture as to how she might have fared against A. Keightley if the Cheshire Lines girl had managed to win against Nan Lamb, as this would have meant a 9 point deficit at the start.

Miss Keightley made the serious mistake of forsaking her principle strength—attack—against Nan Lamb and discovered too late her mistaken tactics. She had achieved one notable success against Pinky May by all-out attack, and it would have been interesting to see if similar tactics would also trouble Beryl Waterson.

Maxwell Fyfe.

Semi-finals.—D. Bruce (15) beat D. Rigby (11) 31—27 31—28 ; G. Williams (11) beat K. Fenerty (14) 33—31 31—27.

Final.—D. Bruce (15) beat G. Williams (11) 31—26 31—23.

Don Foulis.

Semi-final.—N. Lamb (11) beat A. Keightley (14) 31—29 31—29 ; B. Waterson (5) beat L. Jenkins (13) 31—22 31—23.

Final.—B. Waterson (5) beat N. Lamb (11) 31—24 31—24.

Heart Cry of a Rebel

By J. R. GREEN

I HAVE the soul of a rebel. I admit it, and I am going to climb precariously but deliberately out on a limb as a target for your sniping.

Do you know why we've got no great or near-great post-war players? No! Well, let me tell you my own peculiar views and then tear me to shreds. I think the fundamental reason is pure *laziness*.

In 1926 Les Forrest founded the league. Within 13 years we had produced ten internationals. How? By sheer graft. Those players did it by watching the strokes of established stars; then practice, practice and still more practice, until they could do it in their sleep.

Want Spoon Feeding

If we relied on post-war players only-to-day, Liverpool's stock could comfort, ably be traversed by a snake without excessive undulations because the player of to-day (except a small minority) want to be spoon-fed—table tennis ability at 1/6 a bottle. No work! No practice!

Exertion and effort are anathema to them. So long as the club runs enough teams to guarantee their league play; so long as the club selectors assay their abilities as they themselves do, everything's smashing. Nobody must prick the bubble of overweening self-satisfaction.

You obviously don't care about the Liverpool teams or you would support them. Joe (or Jane) Soap will remain your mark while pictures and dancing come first.

It's not lack of food or ability. It's simply lack of purpose and a horrible mental and physical lethargy. A complete victory of matter over mind.

But if these gentle hints of mine shake just ten younger players to "show that guy," my becoming the most unpopular person in Liverpool will be worth while. I never was popular anyway.

You've all got plenty of ammunition and if this diatribe elicits a few brickbats I shall know that the universal execration I have called down on myself has achieved something. I shall have raised someone from the disastrous state of suspended animation peculiar to Liverpool table tennis players.

Balfour Policy Paying Dividends

THE last three weeks of the season finally decided which teams would be second and third to Balfour.

There had been keen competition for the position of runners-up and Balfour A just managed to beat 15th Crosby by a point to gain second place to their senior team.

It is interesting to note the composition of these two Balfour teams—one composed of staid old players and the other of youngsters who have improved as the season progressed.

Balfour's ambitious and go-ahead policy of encouraging youngsters has paid dividends as is shown by the improvement of such players as Harris, Gaulton, Wilcock, Townsend and W. Jones, who, a couple of seasons ago, were quite raw but with coaching and practice have improved out of all recognition.

Practice Lack

One or two other youngsters from other clubs whom I have had my eye on, have not yet come up to my expectations because they have not been able to get the experienced player to practice with.

I am of the opinion that there are more up and coming young players in the lower divisions whose progress is retarded by their loyalty to their own clubs. By joining a first division club they are bound to improve.

The lack of a city headquarters has been the handicap of promising youngsters unable to prove their mettle in a higher sphere. It is all very well to have 100 per cent records in other divisions, but how would they compare in ours.

When one reflects on the play and the standard of the first division, we must also think in terms of city representation.

Compared with other cities and towns of our own standing, such as Manchester Birmingham and Bolton, our strength is low and our reserve strength weak. We have not the Booths and Pullars among our 17-year-olds.

Our first half dozen leading league averages are mostly those of pre-war players long past their best, who are just waiting for the day to stand down

for youngsters to come "hitting the lost trail" to regain Liverpool her lost prestige in the table tennis world.

Congratulations, Fred, and all your 15th Crosby team, on a Readman Cup final win which was never in doubt once the score cards were written out. As such also was the win of the Stamp Cup by Rafter's.

We must commiserate with Bohemians and Balfour B whose company we have enjoyed and wish them luck in the second division.

Our twelve teams called on 102 players during the season and in all cup and league matches the following hold the leading averages:—R. M. Rumjahn, played 61, won 54, 88.6 per cent; E. J. Rumjahn, 53-46-86.4; W. Pierce, 51-44-86.2; P. U. Rumjahn, 71-57-80.2; L. Davies, 50-40-80.0; B. Hand, 33-26-78.7; R. Hetherington, 46-36-78.7; Eileen Mansell, 48-35-77.2.

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Fatal Matches for Y.M.C.A.

WITH the curtain down on yet another season, all the worries and hopes of relegation or promotion are finally settled and we can relax and look forward to next season.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A., who looked certain champions a month ago, suffered a defeat at Wavertree on March 26 and could only draw with Waterloo Dock, which was fatal, as Anfield, who were second, only a point behind, at that time, continued to win and so gained the championship.

Let me be the first to congratulate them on their success. In their last 16 matches they suffered only one defeat and that was to the Y.M.C.A. at Mount Pleasant.

Great Effort

In the relegation zone Liverpool Police have been a certainty for a long time, with only one point to their credit, gained through a draw with Balfour C, but I.C.I., who were second from bottom, put up a hard fight.

Although they finished with 14 points compared with Waterloo Dock's 16, they were unlucky inasmuch as Waterloo showed such a fine finish by getting five points out of the last five matches, which included beating Wavertree 6-4 and drawing with Y.M.C.A., Lucem and Oakhill, a great effort by the Dock boys.

Balfour C, who are fourth from bottom, also had a grand slam finish by collecting five points out of their last four games.

In my experience this season, I can find no answer as to why we have no youngsters of obvious ability to gain

honours for Liverpool by playing for the county, etc., and I think I should have seen some in the second division.

Most of the teams, however, carry the same old faces, plodding along holding their own. D. Rigby (L'pool Y.M.C.A.) and W. Allanson (Bootle Y.M.C.A.) stood out as being possible good first division players of the future, but that's all.

Why, I ask myself, is this so? And the only answer I can find is that in cities where the game has progressed they play three-a-side, with the result that more match experience is available.

I therefore advocate three changes for next season which, I think, would improve our games—teams of three players only; starting time for matches to be seven o'clock because I believe games have been finishing too late in many cases; and finally, cut out the break for cakes and sandwiches and just have tea and biscuits during the game.

If you agree, I should like your views at the A.G.M.

The Sir Robert Jones Memorial Workshops, 74 Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool, 8, have made a fine job of binding the *Digest* issues for one of our members. They are prepared to bind them in separate volumes, or collectively at the following rates :-6/- for single volumes, 9/- for two or more. Apart from the excellent work done, members would be helping a worthy cause.

Congratulations to Miss Lil Rimmer for the fine progress she made in the *Daily Mirror* tournament. It is no easy task to reach the closing stages of a nation-wide event.

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Litherland Proved Their Worth

AFTER a great struggle we raise our hats to worthy champions in Litherland, who proved themselves beyond doubt by disposing of the mighty Rafters challenge with a 6-4 victory over full strength opposition in the return league encounter.

Linnet as runners-up, point with pride to a moral superiority over Litherland, having taken from them three of the four league points at stake. They have achieved their object also in gaining promotion to the second division at the first attempt.

Rafters, with the Rumjahn cup to adorn their sideboard, console themselves in the knowledge that even though they failed in their league bid it was a glorious failure and they certainly kept the season alive to the last.

Good Team Spirit

We cannot pass the cup without reference to gallant losing finalists, Bohemians, who went down 6-4 fighting hard and nearly springing another surprise. Here is a team which clearly demonstrates fighting ability and team spirit at its best.

Victoria Park and Cadwa finished a good fourth and fifth. Then follow the mob, with Osterley creating what surely must be a record with draws.

Down in the depths Oakhill, as we feared, proved the supporting team holding up the other eleven, while above them with identical records to set the league pundits a problematic poser are bracketed Anfield and Linacre.

A play-off to decide who should retain league status would not be a fair proposition as it would tend to give advantage to the team currently on form. Various ideas are in the air, but I have a sneaking feeling that the league may let things slide in the hope that before next season an answer to the problem may present itself.

In the meantime one of the teams think the obvious thing to do is to employ alphabetical order.

You will not need two guesses at the promoters of that suggestion.

A feature of the season in our division has been the up and coming young players. Litherland are probably the youngest team of all and have,

in addition to A. C. Taylor, a No. 2 in D. Henwood who, if his rate of improvement is maintained, will be joining his colleague in a Liverpool team.

Linnet have in F. A. Thomas, brought to the fore in record time, another young man with a devastating attack and distinct promise. Rafters have in D. Ferguson, area finalist in the *Daily Mirror* tournament, the most polished stroke player for his age in the area, while Victoria Park have given league baptism to M. Truman, another who could make the grade.

M. Cohen (Anfield), J. Finch (Technical Students) and J. Dible (Oakhill) are others who come to mind as young men with a future in the game.

Finally, to finish on a jarring note, black mark to Technical Students, who failed to turn up for their final match at Linacre which, apart from helping complicate the league issue, earns them the distinction of being the first team to default in Division 3 for many years, if not the first ever to do so.

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Consistency brought its Reward

CONGRATULATIONS to champions Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and to the runners-up Bath Street. May their happiness not be short-lived after the opening of next season.

At the same time our condolence to African Oil Mills who might have won promotion had they had Glass and Hutchings available for every league match.

The Y.M.C.A. success was the reward of consistently good play throughout the season by a team of all-round strength. Their highest individual performance was by their No. 5, Don Rodrigues, who finished with 84 per cent. The lowest was by the No. 2, John Taylor, with 65 per cent. The fact that only three points were dropped, all in drawn games, emphasised their consistency.

Strong Pair

Bath Street had the strongest winning pair in the division and deserve all credit for finishing second after getting off to a bad start. Once they had their team properly settled, however, they never looked back.

If they had been stronger in the tail they would have given the Y.M. a much closer fight. The strength of their Nos. 1 and 2, Gould and Aspinall, is shown by the fact that between them they won 74 out of a possible 86 sets.

Lucky Bootle, that is, lucky to always have good juniors coming along. This year it was 15 years old Ian Rogerson, their No. 4, who plays with the confidence of a veteran. With Bent and Ferris he was mainly responsible for the end-of-season improvement in the teams league position. Ferris' first 14 sets left him with only five wins, but his last 14 showed 12 wins.

In contrast to these teams African Oil Mills and Wavertree C.C. slipped, the Oil Mills due to the absence of their two best players. In Wavertree's case it was due to the necessity of having to provide reserves for their senior team on numerous occasions.

There were many unorthodox players in the division. Two of them, Gould and Aspinall, have already been mentioned. Two other worthy opponents were Gower of St. Michael's and Albert Hill (Domestic Mission). Each of these players had a fine season.

Hill proved himself in a playing sense, to be the daddy of our division's veterans and showed himself well capable of beating good youngsters.

The general standard of the table tennis throughout the division improved as the season wore on, and it is good to see so many young players adopting a more serious approach to the game. The more successful teams seemed to be those with lower average ages. Whether this means anything or not we shall not know until next season when we see how much these younger players have improved.

D. M. SINGER

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Hand Ends 15 Years Run

AT the end of the 1937-38 season the legendary Ken Hyde won the Men's Singles title at the Closed. The following year Peter Rumjahn was his successor, and throughout the years one member or other of that illustrious family have always held the title.

Now after 15 years the spell has been broken, and if only for that reason, the resounding triumph by Bernard Hand will forever make these season's championships memorable.

Speaking personally it was obvious to me during the trip to Glasgow that Bernard had made big strides since his return from the Forces, and the form he showed at Dingle Vale and at the Y.M.C.A. merely confirmed it.

It is asking a great deal to expect a player to overcome two Rumjahns in one night, but there were only brief spells when the Crosby player seemed in any trouble, and in the end he won very comfortably. His toughest struggle by far was in the quarter-finals when he just beat Reg Hetherington 21—19 in the third after leading 20—13. This was probably the finest set of the whole week.

Narrowing Gap

It would be foolish to forecast that none of the Rumjahns will ever win the title again, but one thing is clear. At long last the youngsters are narrowing the gap and gone are the days when it was a virtual certainty that the name of Rumjahn would be inscribed on the Cup.

As a further sign of the times we have only to remember that both Ron and Ted had to fight their hardest to beat two other young players, Norman and Roy Jones respectively, at the quarter-finals stage. Ron beat Norman 21—19 in the third, and Ted beat Roy 21—18 in the third after a particularly hectic battle.

Youth, as represented in a Men's Doubles pair, Hand and Pierce, should have struck a further blow for their side, but they lost in the final to Chesham and Ron Rumjahn. Although they had the speed to do the job, unfortunately so inaccurate was their play at times that the two older players quietly rode to victory, mainly by letting them make the mistakes.

Apart from Bernard Hand, Roy Jones was one of the most successful players of the week, and he achieved a major triumph in beating Pierce 21—19 in the third. This was a desperate struggle, but Bill continues to disappoint when the final rounds are reached and once again he could not break his hoodoo.

In the Men's Singles generally there were not a great number of surprises, though Ted Mandeluff's defeat of A. C. Taylor in the first round and K. Fenerty's overthrow of First Division Len Ross deserve mention.

An event of possible importance was the winning of the Men's Regional Singles by young Truman from Victoria Park. His progress to the final was almost without incident, and there were several single figure game victories in his results.

Another youngster Fenerty, fought hard against him in the semi-final and did better than the scores, 12 and 15, suggest, but in a largely defensive battle Truman was always just that little bit better.

The final was very one sided and Truman was never in any difficulty against P. Coulter (Panto), winning 16 and 12. He is a player of considerable possibilities and being only 17 may well train on to the highest class, though he has a good deal to learn.

Big Surprise

Some indication of the weakness of the Regional Singles is forthcoming when we realise that Truman was not able to reach the Junior Singles final, losing 13—21 17—21 to Rigby (L'pool Y.M.) in the quarter-final. Rigby is now of course a player of some experience and he knew a little too much, though they are practically the same age.

A big surprise was the failure of Ferguson (Rafters) to reach the last stage. He was defeated by Cohen (Anfield) in the semi-final 13—21 21—17 19—21. Of the youngsters Cohen has one of the hardest drives in the League and this appeared to disconcert Dave.

Rigby played another Liverpool Y.M. player, Routledge and winning comfortably also entered the final. His best performance was in beating Truman in excellent style, but it must be said that

Routledge showed much promise and should achieve more success in this event in the future. He is still very young.

The Juniors, in fact, put up a good show on Wednesday night, and more than one of them seemed to have the potential to reach the top in a year or two. In addition to those already mentioned Hunter, of Bootle Y.M., was another to impress.

Although Rigby elected to mainly defend against Cohen in the final it was always likely he would emerge the winner. Cohen has some very fine 'kills' but he can be betrayed into inaccuracy, and this proved to be his eventual undoing.

Once again Eileen Mansell proved herself to be the best woman player in the League by quite a margin. There was never an occasion when she appeared likely to be beaten.

At the moment there does not seem to be anyone who is likely to offer serious challenge for quite some time. Some of us thought that Beryl Waterson might prove an obstacle, but as she suffered a disappointing defeat to Bluey Casselman in the semi-final 14 and 14, it was left to another relative veteran to make the final challenge.

Young Promise

Despite this it was noticeable at Dingle Vale that there were a number of the younger girls showing great promise, and as usual the prospects look brighter than with the men. No one has made a bigger advance this season than Moyra Pattison, and her form was a revelation. After beating Pinky May 18—21 21—19 21—12 she had no trouble in overcoming Gladys Brown 14 and 14 to enter the semi-final.

Her final encounter with Eileen Mansell, a defeat 14 and 10, showed the big margin that still exists.

But for pure style no one could match Doreen Millington, and she made a big impression on all who saw her. Although she lost in the final of the restricted singles, her improvement was starting from twelve months ago, and given the determination she could yet challenge the best.

The Bibby's couple, Lil Rimmer and Gladys Brown, while disappointing in the singles, combined well to reach the final of the Women's Doubles, including in their run a sensational win over Eileen Mansell and Olive Dickenson,

winning 24—22 in the third after their opponents had held three set points.

It was all the more disappointing, therefore, that they did not show any sign at all in the final of holding the May twins. They were well beaten long before the end.

It was by no means surprising to see Joyce Lloyd coming through to the final of the Restricted Singles, as she must be one of the most consistent players in the League.

After a serene passage, however, she was forced to pull out everything she knew against Doreen Millington in the final. She held a 20—14 lead in the first game and just won it 21—19. In the next she was ahead at 19—16 only to lose 20—22, and in the final set was triumphant 22—20 after she had held a lead of 20—16. This was a wonderful set to watch and truly honours can be said to have been equally divided.

In the Mixed Doubles event Ron Rumjahn achieved some further compensation for the loss of his Singles title by beating, in partnership with Pinky May, Eileen Mansell and Reg Hetherington. Frankly it was a very disappointing final, the usually sound Reg hitting off an inordinate number of easy returns, the other three being also very far from accurate.

Eileen and Reg made their final effort when losing 8—15 in the third and recovered to 16—17 but could do no more and lost 17—21.

Final Results :—

Men's Singles, semi-finals.—B. Hand beat R. M. Rumjahn 21—18 19—21 21—13 ; P. U. Rumjahn beat E. J. Rumjahn 21—8 18—21 21—14.

Final.—Hand beat P. U. Rumjahn 21—15 21—18.

Women's Singles, final.—E. Mansell beat K. Casselman 21—11 21—15.

Men's Doubles, final.—R. M. Rumjahn and V. Chesham beat W. Pierce and B. Hand 21—23 21—16 22—20.

Women's Doubles, final.—K. Casselman and K. May beat G. Brown and L. Rimmer 21—16 21—16.

Mixed Doubles, final.—R. M. Rumjahn and K. May beat R. Hetherington and E. Mansell 19—21 21—10 21—17.

Junior Singles, final.—D. Rigby beat M. Cohen 21—17 19—21 21—16.

Men's Regional Singles, final.—M. Truman beat P. Coulter 21—16 21—12.

Women's Restrieted, final.—J. Lloyd beat D. Millington 21—19 20—22 22—20.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

1953

First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour	22	20	1	1	157	63	41
Balfour A	22	14	6	2	125	95	30
15th Crosby	22	12	5	5	127	93	29
African Oil	22	10	7	5	119	101	25
Anfield	22	10	8	4	104	116	24
Rafters	22	9	8	5	109	111	23
Acacia	22	9	9	4	113	107	22
Rafters A	22	10	11	1	114	106	21
Oakhill	22	7	11	4	100	120	18
Livex	22	6	12	4	97	123	16
Balfour B	22	2	15	5	86	134	9
Bohemians	22	2	18	2	69	151	6

Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Anfield A	22	17	2	3	140	80	37
L'pool Y.M.	22	16	3	3	153	67	35
Victoria Park ...	22	13	7	2	126	94	28
Cheshire Lines ..	22	12	6	4	119	101	28
Lucern	22	10	6	6	122	98	26
Bootle Y.M.	22	9	8	5	118	102	23
Oakhill A	22	6	7	9	108	112	21
Wavertree C.C. ...	22	7	11	4	95	125	18
Balfour C	22	7	12	3	97	123	17
Waterloo Dock ...	22	5	11	6	98	122	16
I.C.I.	22	6	14	2	93	127	14
L.P.A.S.	22	0	21	1	51	169	1

Third Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Litherland	22	18	2	2	150	70	38
Linnets	22	16	2	4	154	66	36
Rafters B	22	16	3	3	146	74	35
Victoria Park A ..	22	13	5	4	130	90	30
Cadwa	22	11	8	3	117	103	25
Osterley	22	5	7	10	106	114	20
Tech. Students ..	22	7	11	4	101	119	18
Bohemians A ...	22	7	13	2	99	121	16
English Electric ..	22	6	12	4	93	127	16
Anfield B	22	5	15	2	84	136	12
Linacre	22	5	15	2	84	136	12
Oakhill B	22	2	18	2	56	164	6

Fourth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
L'pool Y.M. A	22	19	0	3	170	50	41
Bath Street	22	15	4	3	146	74	33
W'tree C.C. A	22	13	4	5	129	91	31
Bootle Y.M. A	22	13	6	3	134	86	29
African Oil A ...	22	12	9	1	110	110	25
Livex A	22	9	7	6	112	108	24
Bohemians B ...	22	9	8	5	104	116	23
Domestic Miss'n ..	22	9	12	1	104	116	19
St. Michaels ...	22	6	10	6	99	121	18
Aigburth	22	4	16	2	85	135	10
Harold House ...	22	2	17	3	60	160	7
R.A.F.A. (Liv.) ..	22	1	19	2	67	153	4

WOMEN'S—Division I

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Lofters	22	17	0	5	163	57	39
Balfour	22	18	3	1	169	51	37
Bibbys	22	18	3	1	162	58	37
Oakhill	22	13	5	4	137	83	30
Rafters	22	9	5	8	122	98	26
Linnets	22	11	8	3	119	101	25
Bohemians	22	8	7	7	117	103	23
Anfield	22	5	11	6	97	123	16
Littlewoods	22	5	14	3	82	138	13
Cheshire Lines ..	22	3	15	4	72	148	10
Leyfield	22	1	17	4	40	180	6
Aigburth	22	1	21	0	40	180	2

WOMAN'S—Division II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Linnets A	22	17	3	2	144	76	36
Brenka	22	14	3	5	140	80	33
Waterloo Park ..	22	16	5	1	135	85	33
Wavertree C.C. ...	22	12	6	4	134	86	28
Ogdens	22	11	6	5	135	85	27
Osterley	22	13	8	1	131	89	27
Lofters A	22	9	9	4	115	105	22
Bohemians A ...	22	9	10	3	102	118	21
Littlewoods A ...	22	8	12	2	95	115	18
Beauclair	22	5	14	3	86	134	13
Lucern	22	1	19	2	60	160	4
Catholic Metro ..	22	1	21	0	43	177	2

NORTH REGIONAL I

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Waterloo Park ..	22	20	0	2	177	43	42
Lofters	22	17	2	3	155	65	37
Brenka	22	15	4	3	143	77	33
English E'ec. A ..	22	14	8	0	123	97	28
Everton Y.M. ...	22	11	7	4	133	87	26
W'loo Dock A	22	9	9	4	107	113	22
Litherland A ...	22	9	10	3	113	107	21
Littlewoods	22	9	10	3	99	121	21
Warbreck Moor ..	22	5	15	2	73	147	12
15th Crosby A ..	22	3	14	5	70	150	11
RAF Movements ..	22	2	16	4	71	149	8
Tech. Students A ..	22	1	20	1	56	164	3

NORTH REGIONAL II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Raw Cotton ...	22	19	0	3	164	56	41
M'hull Boys Club ..	22	17	4	1	140	80	35
W'loo Park A ...	22	15	3	4	155	65	34
Bootle Y.M. B	22	16	5	1	150	70	33
Lofters A	22	15	7	0	136	84	30
Litherland B ...	22	11	7	4	135	85	26
St. Dominics ...	22	11	11	0	97	123	22
English Elec. B ..	22	8	14	0	99	121	16
W'loo Park B ...	22	5	17	0	71	149	10
Anfield D	22	3	17	2	71	149	8
Tech. Students B ..	22	2	19	1	50	170	5
Bootle Police ...	22	1	19	2	52	168	4

SOUTH REGIONAL

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Victoria Park B	22	19	0	3	179	41	41
Linnets A	22	18	0	4	178	42	40
Beauclair	22	18	3	1	160	60	37
W'tree C.C. B	22	14	5	3	135	85	31
Aigburth Meths.	22	14	7	1	144	76	29
Cheshire Lines A	22	10	11	1	126	94	21
Lucem B	22	9	11	2	97	123	20
Linnets C	22	8	12	2	90	130	18
Cadwa B	22	5	16	1	80	140	11
Vauxhall Sports	22	3	18	1	44	176	7
Cheshire Lines B	22	2	19	1	42	178	5
St. Peters Y.C.	22	1	19	2	45	175	4

EAST REGIONAL

Victoria Park C	22	19	2	1	166	54	39
Holly Mount	22	15	3	4	154	66	34
Cadwa A	22	15	3	4	151	69	34
Vagabonds	22	15	3	4	148	72	34
Old Xaverians	22	16	5	1	149	71	33
Balfour D	22	9	8	5	126	94	23
Leyfield	22	8	13	1	88	132	17
W'tree Labour	22	7	14	1	80	140	15
L.P.A.S. A	22	5	13	4	91	129	14
Osterley A	22	6	14	2	82	138	14
Comet	22	1	19	2	43	177	4
Beauclair A	22	1	20	1	42	178	3

CENTRAL REGIONAL

Panto	22	21	1	0	191	29	42
Lucem A	22	16	3	3	158	62	35
L'pool Y.M. B	22	16	4	2	144	76	34
Anfield C	22	14	7	1	133	87	29
Linnets B	22	10	9	3	123	97	23
Vagabonds A	22	10	9	3	110	110	23
Oakhill C	22	9	9	4	116	104	22
Lussac	22	8	11	3	106	114	19
Catholic Metro	22	6	12	4	92	128	16
I.C.I. A	22	4	14	4	65	155	12
Old Xaverians A	22	1	18	3	50	170	5
Leyfield A	22	2	20	0	32	188	4

Continued from Page 3.

You can send your entries and fees to me or you can write direct to Mr. G. R. Harrower, 68, Gloucester Road, New Barnet, Herts, who will give you any further details and also send you a special poster to exhibit.

To make it worth while, at least 2,000 events should be run all over the country. At the moment nearly 500 have been arranged, but 90 per cent of them are in the South.

Come on the North, and remember these competitions will **HELP YOUR CLUB, HELP YOUR MEMBERS AND HELP THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS—IT'S UP TO YOU!**

It was Jones v Rafter

Says JIM GREEN

THE Stamp Cup was intended originally to encourage juniors. I could only wish that Liverpool had a few juniors of the calibre of the participants of the Stamp Cup finalists. Unfortunately, they were all well over the age limit for juniors.

Rafters, represented by the three Rumjahn brothers, were well worth their 7—2 win over Acacia. Only Roy Jones offered any real resistance to them, although Don Hobbs gave the brothers a tough passage without the fireworks of his team-mate. Walter Rowan appeared nervous and did not seem at home in this company.

Jones' was the man of the match. His win over Ted Rumjahn in the first set of the evening was due to his jet-propelled attack which seemed even more vicious than usual.

Similar Ideas

Later in the evening his blitz shots were not quite so evident, for Peter Rumjahn had ideas of non-stop attack himself and refused to be driven back far enough to examine the table. After a whirlwind battle Peter ran out at 24—22 in the third game.

Against "brother Ronnie," Jones cut loose with everything he had, but this time he was never in control and Ronnie was the winner of an energetic affair.

The only other set worthy of note was that between Hobbs and Ted Rumjahn. Hobbs, grimly defending against an attacking opponent, came down heavily on his weak leg and was thereafter obliged to stand still and just hit. Ted entered into the spirit of these new tactics and dropped the ball for Hobbs' forehand. The subsequent applause for Hobbs' victory was equally for Ted Rumjahn's co-operation.

But why Hobbs chooses to push when he can hit like this is past all comprehension.

The other five sets went to Rafters almost without effort and so the Stamp Cup went to join the double division shield at Bentley Road. Although there is no doubles division now, this match indicated that the shield may well be the first to leave Rafters.

CAIRD, WATTS TOPPED BILL

By J. D. LOUGHREY

IT would be difficult to write of the Readman Cup final with any seriousness. As a contest it was a "one horse race" right from the start.

The evening, however, was not without its high-spot, a set which, for many reasons, raised the match from complete mediocrity, namely the encounter between those two eccentric exponents, Eric Caird and Joe Watts. Though the Crosby player won easily enough, the pair gave a display which would have brought the house down at any music hall.

If it was not Caird's violent exclamations as yet another ball was swept off the table, then it was the Watts' famous "double-shuffle," which kept the place in complete uproar. How umpire Gus Read maintained his poker face to the end, I do not know, but valiently he endeavoured to keep control, even exhorting the crowd to silence more than once.

Alarmed Look

In this memorable encounter I shall always recall Watts' look of alarm when after winning the first ten points or so, he put a ball into the net. But even more amusing was one of the last points of this curious contest. Watts always makes the table seem five yards wide rather than five feet, and usually serves from one side.

Having adjusted himself carefully (leap, shuffle and crouch) he found Caird was waiting on the same side. Thereupon he went to the other corner, and, to his surprise, found Caird had come across as well. Not liking the look of things, he retraced his steps, but still not quickly enough for when he served the indomitable Eric had also made the return journey just in time to put the ball well off the table!

The other sets were decided very quickly in the 9-1 victory to 15th Crosby, none of them calling for much comment. Notable, however, was Bernard Hand's victory over Peter Rumjahn, confirming this young players steady improvement during the season. Peter won Rafters' only success when he defeated Joe Delamere, and his side must have wished they could have called on the services of Marner Mcrisson, who, as Crosby's first reserve, had the role of spectator.

Success at Third Try

By MARGARET LINDNER

HEARTIEST congratulations to Bibby's, who, making their third successive appearance in the final, defeated Oakhill 7-3 to at last win the Bartholomew Cup.

It must be said that both teams have played better. In the final it was a question of which players could best control their nerves, for there were far too many points gained by the nervous mistakes of opponents.

Bibby's, were, I think, the better balanced team and fully deserved their victory, although five of the sets were to three close games and it only needed two of them to have gone the other way for the score to have been much closer.

At the interval the score was Bibby's 4 (G. Brown, L. Rimmer, J. Dinwoodie and M. Perry), Oakhill 1 (I. Crafter), but on the resumption Oakhill were encouraged when Mrs. L. Upton seemed to have the measure of a subdued Miss Perry and won the first game 21-14. But their hopes fell again when she lost the next two 13 and 18.

Kept Game Open

Bibby's were still kept on tenterhooks, however, when Mary Rubert, who had earlier delighted with a barrage of forehand and backhand shots before going down to Lil Rimmer 23-21 18-21 15-21, beat Joan Dinwoodie 17 and 19, and Ivy Crafter, who had accounted for Muriel Bannister in the first set, further enhanced her evening's performance by beating Gladys Brown 22-24 22-20 21-16 to make the score 3-5.

Alas! Oakhill's hopes vanished when Miss Bannister secured victory for Bibby's by a convincing win over Lil Jenkins, who, I imagine, was the most nervous player of the evening and would, without doubt, be fully conscious that it was a vital set.

Edna Moore only lost to Gladys Brown 21-12 19-21 21-23 in the first half, and her tenacious play and sound defence was again well displayed in the last set before losing to Miss Rimmer, who confidently let loose a stream of attacking shots which, unfortunately, we too seldom see from her, 18-21 21-18 16-21.

RAFTERS WERE WORTH WIN

ONE cannot ask or expect a fairer comment from an opposing captain than "The best team won."

That was the tribute which Joe Alcock, skipper of the Bohemians A, paid when his side were beaten by six sets to four by Rafter B in the final of the Rumjahn Cup at Waterloo Dock.

And it was an honest summing up of the match, for although Bohemians fought hard throughout their opponents were, in the main, just that much better.

Outstanding players of the evening were probably Mrs. Kay Casselman for Rafter and Doug. West for Bohemians. Although the former gained only one victory when she beat J. Holdsworth on a deuce in the second game, she was on tip-top form, mixed her game cleverly and produced an attack that surprised many of the spectators.

Valuable No. 5

West once again proved what a valuable No. 5 he has been for Bohemians since they promoted him from the B team. He got two of his side's four sets by beating Mrs. Casselman and D. Ridgway, albeit on each occasion he had to fight hard and only managed to clinch the set in the third game.

G. Baker, Bohemian's No. 2, was concerned in the other two hardest sets of the evening, losing the one to J. McCaig 16—21 in the third and beating A. Jones 24—22 in the third in the other.

It was a poor night for Jones for he was also beaten by J. Holdsworth, whom Bohemians had at No. 4, and whether that policy paid them will always be debatable.

It meant R. Kay and J. Alcock at one and three. Kay could do little against either J. McCaig or D. Ferguson, while Alcock was completely overplayed by Ferguson and Ridgway.

Many people at Dingle Vale were talking about a revival of the old Consolation Singles. If time permitted it would undoubtedly be a popular step, giving opportunity to the not so good competitors to achieve success. One or two players spring to mind who always faithfully enter, and invariably never progress beyond their first set.

Postmen had No Nerves

By JACK NEILL

PANTO were worthy winners of the Hyde Cup. They played with confidence throughout. Vagabonds never revealed anything approaching normal form and consequently the final never reached a stage where it roused considerable interest.

The first blow in any final is a morale booster and Vagabonds' captain pinned his faith on Gallagher in matching him with Coulter, but it was Coulter who struck the first blow by winning 20—22 24—22 21—14.

It was all too obvious that Gallagher was under a nervous handicap. This was aggravated by a patient pull-back in the first game from 14—20 to 22—20 and his failure to take the second game when twice having match point. His inability, too, to produce his lethal drive and his persistent playing of slow backhand top spinners contributed to his downfall. Coulter was imperturbable.

Sacrificial "lamb"

Harkness had no difficulty in accounting for Pearson, obviously put on the altar of sacrifice, and Panto were 2 up. The unemotionable Storey, with his cannon ball drive, proved too much for Slater and Panto's lead was down to one.

Panto's calling on Pearson again, to meet Bob Mason, showed their assessing to be reliable, for Mason won 15 and 15, but when Wally Savidge retaliated by calling on Coulter, the Vagabonds' captain, who is fascinating to watch, played his usual studied game only to lose 22—20 21—17.

Storey once again kept his team in with a chance of beating Fowler in a three-game set, but Panto went to a 5—2 lead, Slater beat Elliott, who, with his fluent strokes and lack of nerves, seemed to me wasted at No. 2.

Gallagher had a second chance to prove his previous performance was false, but, alas, his nervous tension was even worse and, with Mason defeating him 23—21 21—15, Panto had won the cup.

A unique feature at the end was the presentation of the cup to the winning captain by the Secretary of the North Region.

J. H. C. HUGHES says

This was Nan Lamb's Match

IF at the start of the season Jack Neill had backed Lofters Ladies to win the Women's First Division without losing a match, he would have got very good odds and would now be in the happy position of stuffing his voluminous brief case.

To be champions at their first attempt is an outstanding achievement. The climax and turning point of their deciding match against Balfour came in the sixth game with the score standing at 3—2 for Lofters. But let's start at the beginning.

First game—Lamb v. Robinson—turned out a fairly easy two-straight win for Lamb who was very steady. Robinson did not seem to get going and was worried by Lamb's backhand chop.

Tough Battle

Lofters went further ahead when Waterson beat Dickenson, but this was a tough struggle with Mrs. Dickenson bringing out all her fighting qualities.

Mrs. Waterson won the first but the second game went to 26—24 before the Balfour captain won by taking the initiative and hitting anything loose. Mrs. Waterson got the third game for her opponent seemed to tire, but Olive Dickenson is still a great fighter and mighty hard to beat.

Next Allen reduced the margin by beating Hogg 2—1, but Hogg should have won for she led 19—14 in the third only to lose 19—21. All credit, however, to Mrs. Allen for never giving up and taking full advantage of Hogg's lapse.

Lloyd went on to beat Brunskill 22—20 in the third in another match which the loser should have won despite the fact that she pulled up from 16—20 down in the third.

What a mystery Mrs. Brunskill is, for she gets a good lead in the first by attacking, then goes into her shell and lets Lloyd dictate matters. The same thing happened in the final game, but praise must go to Miss Lloyd for her persistent pounding of Mrs. Brunskill's backhand corner when she found it was paying dividends.

Mrs. Evans narrowed the gap when she beat a nervous Miss Griffiths by

consistent forehand hitting for a two-straight victory.

We now come to the sixth game with Lofters 3—2 up.

Lamb v. Dickenson. First game to Dickenson at 21—15 and she looks good for a win to level the scores, but there is no lying down by Miss Lamb.

Level at 19—all in the second game and Mrs. Dickenson gets an edge. Match point. Then the Balfour skipper serves off the table and the fight goes on. Mrs. Dickenson has two more match points but Miss Lamb saves them and finally breaks through to win 24—22.

The third game finds Mrs. Dickenson who is playing with a bandaged wrist, not quite so steady as Miss Lamb, making no mistakes, goes on to win 21—9.

Confidence Rose

That was the turning point for with a lead of 4—2 Lofters' confidence had increased and they never looked back.

Hogg went on to beat Robinson in two-straight though she once lost a good lead—10-5 to 10-12—in the second before pulling herself together. This was a night off for Lil Robinson. I cannot remember seeing her so ineffective and seemed to lack confidence in her shots.

Mrs. Waterson made the match secure by beating Mrs. Brunskill easily. Her game was much improved on her previous one—more confident and she hit well on the forehand.

What a good season she has had and how well she deserves it, for she is an asset to the League not only for her play but also for her attitude to the game.

In each winning their second matches of the evening Miss Lloyd and Mrs. Allen brought the final score to 7—3.

In beating two such doughty opponents as Olive Dickenson and Lil Robinson—the one at such a vital stage—Nan Lamb did a real captain's job. This should go down as Nan Lamb's match.

Congratulations to the new champions and well done Balfour for your record of three wins and three times runners-up in the last six seasons you have competed, is one of which you may well be proud.

PROMISE OF CHRIS GLEED

CONGRATULATIONS to Lofters and Linnet A on winning the championship of their respective divisions. Also a pat on the back to Brenka who have qualified for promotion next season after a very close race with Waterloo Park.

I should like too, to pay tribute to the less fortunate lowly teams who have fulfilled all their fixtures despite a discouraging run of defeats.

Aigburth who have been minus their star player, Mavis Haddon, all season, will no doubt be hoping that she will return next season. Leyfield have, I think, been a little out of their depth, and would have been happier staying in the second division; promotion came their way owing to resignations.

Young Talent

Linnet and Bohemians both justified their promotion. Linnet have a galaxy of young progressive players, and it would be difficult to forecast their teams next season, but they will both have to fight hard to maintain their standard in the first division.

Bohemians, who, with Rafters and Anfield, have a record number of drawn matches to their credit, were a little unfortunate in not always being able to field their strongest side during the latter part of the season, although they were well served by reserves from the second team.

Anfield showed a marked improvement latterly and with their present membership promise to be a formidable side next season.

Catholic Metro, "homeless" for the greater part of the season, will have gained experience of match play, and now be better able to get in some good practice for next season.

Waterloo Park and Ogden's, both playing in their first season, are to be complimented, and although Oakhill were much too strong for Ogden's in their semi-final cup match, which they won 8-2, C. Gleed enhanced her reputation as a good all-round player by beating E. Moore 16 and 16. B. Topping also played a lively game for the losers to score their other set by beating M. Rubert 21 and 18.

They are two of several players well above the average standard of the

second division, unfortunately missing the advantage of the stiffer opposition in the higher sphere.

A number of players have been able to beat the top liners this year but have not been able to maintain a consistent record. Some of the "giant killers" who come to mind are M. Pattison (Boh's), N. Markson (Linnet), and D. Millington (Littlewood's). Doreen's improvement was apparent when she won the North Region tournament.

Here are a few leading individual playing averages:—

1st Division

	P.	W.	%
J. Lloyd	28	26	92.85
B. Waterson	48	42	87.50
M. Perry	52	45	86.53
G. Brown	54	43	79.62
R. Royle	24	19	79.16
A. Brunskill	50	39	78.00
A. Allen.....	50	39	78.00
M. Evans	50	39	78.00
D. Mezey	36	28	77.77
L. Rimmer	54	41	75.92
E. L. Moore.....	52	39	75.00
J. Brennand.....	42	31	73.80
O. Southall	44	32	72.72

2nd Division

	P.	W.	%
S. Farrell	34	31	91.17
C. Gleed	48	43	89.58
D. Davies	48	39	81.25
W. Finnetty	42	34	80.95
E. Cantwell	36	29	80.55
J. Maguire.....	46	35	76.08
A. Houghton.....	50	38	76.00
I. Sturgeon	32	24	75.00
M. Patterson.....	44	33	75.00

Although "Thank goodness it is getting to the end of the season" are words we often hear at this time of the year, there are many table tennis fans eager to play during the summer. I should therefore like to appeal to secretaries, where possible, to arrange friendly matches. Club handicap tournaments and challenge ladders are other ways to stimulate interest and at the same time afford good practice.

The main effort must, of course, come from the players themselves, and every effort should be made during the close season to improve and thereby higher the standard in Liverpool which I regret saying is at present seriously declining.

It was Our Best Tourney

THE South tournament at Cheshire Lines, last month, proved one of the hardest fought and most evenly contested ever held, while the finals were undoubtedly of a higher than usual standard.

Barbara Topping (Aigburth Meths.) won the women's singles, her strong defence coping adequately with the jet-propelled left-handed attack of N. Markson (Linnet), who had no reply when Barbara did attack.

On her path to victory Barbara defeated Audrey Brown (18 in the 3rd), Myra Murphy (18 in the 3rd) and Aileen Keightley (19 in the 3rd). Four victims of this calibre prove her a worthy champion.

Surprise Packet

J. Goodman, the surprise packet from Wavertree, displaying an attack rarely seen in regional circles, won the men's singles from an immensely improved Stan Wilkinson (Aigburth Meths.) by three games to one in a bitterly contested battle. Goodman, although his opponents fought hard, was never seriously perturbed, and stood out from other competitors. Decidedly a young man with a future.

Myra and Eunice Murphy (Linnet), both in their first season, won the women's doubles and again showed that steady improvement which should take them to high circles in the future.

J. Grayson and G. Kettle (C.L.C.) won the men's doubles from J. McKim and K. Horne (Beauclair) but not without some anxious moments, while a last minute pairing between Les Hunter (Victoria Park) and Elsie Palmer (Linnet) proved good enough to win the mixed.

A word of commiseration to Doris Hughes and May Green (three times doubles finalists) and Bob Porter and Aileen Keightley (twice finalists).

Black mark to the finalist who, before playing, was full of chatter and radiating good-will but who, after defeat, changed and was away home within five minutes, radiating anything but happiness. That is not the spirit underlying our sport.

My thanks to Mr. Stamper, Mr. Grayson and their committee for housing us' again; to Linnet for the loan of two tables and three sets of lights, and to all who umpired, and

particularly Messrs. Trevor, Cottam, and McKim, who did the finals. My accolade to that umpire who insisted on correct service in one final.

Rare Thing

To sum up the season is never an easy task. My original prophecy was not far out after all. Victoria Park B are regional champions, with Linnet A as runners-up. Surely it is rare for an undefeated team to finish second. These two stood out from the very beginning.

Our wooden spoonists were St. Peter's, but I feel that this will not be their lot next season. A pat on the back for Wavertree, whose second-half revival nearly upset the promotion stakes, and to an improved and improving Vauxhall who will, I think, prove tough nuts next session.

Now for a few personal comments.

The leading averages for Nos. 1 and 2 in league matches only are:—J. Grayson 95 per cent; L. Carter (Lucem) 90, H. Arden (Victoria Park) and A. Topping (Aigburth Meths.) 83, and C. Grimes (Linnet) 76.

In the 3—5 class: R. Palmer (Linnet) 88 per cent; K. Horne (Beauclair) 84, G. Cope and A. Cowin (Victoria Park) 81, K. Dutch (Linnet) 80, and J. McKim (Beauclair) 78.

To Brian Pardy (Linnet C), who knocked a member of his club's senior team out of the regional tournament and his "buddy," Ron Baker, a word of praise for their steady improvement. To K. Roberts (Vauxhall) I extend the hope that his array of strokes will bring him more success next year.

But to the members of all teams, my thanks for the sporting spirit evident in all matches, and we hope to see you with us again next year.

Though the umpiring of following sets by losing players made for smooth running during the Closed, sympathy must go out to one or two of the women players who after losing hard and close sets found the task of becoming solemn and unemotional umpires immediately afterwards a little beyond them. It is a matter which needs solution, though it may be difficult to find a satisfactory answer.

PANTO PUT US ON MAP

FIRST the regional tournament. This was well supported and it seems generally agreed that it was a very enjoyable evening.

We should all be grateful to Fred Farrell for the capable way he refereed the tournament. To him must go the credit for the smooth progress from start to finish.

To Panto went the men's titles. Bert Harkness beating Ron Fowler in the final 20—22 21—14 21—15 and the two of them beating Slater and Mason 21—11 22—20.

To Miss I. Howley (Catholic Metro) went the women's singles by beating Mrs. L. Jenkins (Oakhill) 18—21 21—19 15—21.

Inter-team Affair

The complete strength of the Panto team was shown very clearly as the tournament progressed. Six out of the last eight in the men's singles and doubles were Panto players and it became a case of knocking each other out.

Fowler (No. 5) caused the biggest surprise by beating Bill Slater (No. 2) in the semi-final and taking Bert Harkness (No. 1) to three in the final.

Peter Shone and Bill Maddocks (Lucem) played well to reach the semi-final of the doubles, losing to Slater and Mason at 9 and 12.

J. Storey (Vagabonds) is a youngster who has improved tremendously during the season and he played his way through to the fourth round. Meeting Harkness in this round he went down 17—21 20—22. Well done, Storey!

Vagabonds must have more youngsters in their club than any other club in the region. They have all made good progress during this season. Pearson and Storey improved so much during the first half of the season that they were promoted to their first team after Christmas and Elliott often joined them as reserve.

These three, plus Gallagher and Savidge were the Vagabonds team when they played Panto in the final of the Hyde Cup.

Elusive Set

We must congratulate Panto on a very successful season. Being top of the table we have to say good-bye to them as they move to higher spheres and wish them the best of luck in future seasons.

Not satisfied with being our regional champions, they carried off the Hyde Cup and in the Forrest Cup beat Waterloo Park (playing without Kinrade No. 1) by a very narrow margin. Panto were 2—5 down and pulled it back to 5—5, winning by 14 games to 12.

Waterloo Park had numerous chances of clinching the match. In the eighth set alone they failed to take advantage of five match points. That extra set proved very elusive.

May I finish with a few words of Thanks. To Domestic Mission for the use of their gymnasium and table, and to Lucem and I.C.I. for the use of their tables.

My thanks also to Panto for putting the Central Region firmly on the map in this our first season and thank you for your co-operation.

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These are your Letters

AN APPRECIATION

SIR.—Now the season is at its end, it is not out of the way to express thanks to all concerned—Editors, subscribers, and so on—in the publishing of our *Table Tennis Digest*.

Latterly there have been some adverse criticisms of the *Digest*, but I feel sure most of us have appreciated the efforts made and have looked forward to each issue. Certainly there is room for improvement; it would be strange if there were not. Let us hope, however, the venture is not allowed to lapse but rather go on from strength to strength.

Personally I read the *Digest* from cover to cover. It is natural we should take most interest in our own division and for this reason three-quarters of a page once a month can hardly satisfy us. I would like to see at least two full pages devoted to news of each division and the *Digest* published fortnightly. It should be easy to get secretaries, captains and others to pass on news items, and if finance is the difficulty what about running a draw or dance or even a levy on each club?

The meeting of Lucem and 15th Crosby in the Readman Cup brought to mind Don Foulis and Fred Bamford and led me to wonder who is the longest serving player in the League. Does Don hold this record?—GUS READ (Oakhill).

Editors.—Thank you, Gus.

THE £.S.D. OF IT

SIR :—I have read the letters in the *Digest* with great interest, and should like to answer some of the remarks.

In regard to the cost of a better magazine, the following points

can be made. Improvement of cover block. This could be done if a new block was designed with a photo of a personality for each month and printed on art paper. This would cost approx. 50/- per issue, plus photo cost.

If the inside were 24 pages on art paper, the extra cost would be approx. £10 per issue, making £12.10.0 in all. This makes an extra cost of £75 per year plus photo costs, which for 1,000 members is 1/6 to 1/9 per year more, an amount which could be saved by missing the pictures, a packet of cigarettes or a couple of pints of beer once in the year.

A small cartoon block drawn gratis would cost 20/- or a small photo block 30/-.

The extra four pages would produce enough space for articles by internationals, but I feel the cutting down of club reports would lose the magazine its usefulness.

As far as selling the magazines on the bookstalls, don't attempt it. I doubt whether the sales would cover the cost of producing the extra magazines.

To Mr. Hoyer, there is no such thing as cheap paper. I often wish there was.

D. J. McNAUGHT (R.A.F.A.)

MAKE IT ANNUAL

SIR :—I wish to thank you for the description in last month's *Digest* of the Liverpool-Glasgow match, which made grand reading to me, an ex-Liverpool league player. It was a grand match and I was surprised to see our young Glasgow boys playing as well as they did. In fact, I have never seen these four play so well as they did that night.

In the championships at Hamilton, which I had hoped to watch with Des Loughrey, we both found ourselves referees, so did not see much of the play.

Finally, let me say that Glasgow are looking forward to this being made an annual match. I trust that this will be so, and that next year I may have the chance of coming down to my old hometown for the first time in nearly ten years. So, Liverpool officials, let's make it an Annual. —
GWILLIAM BROWN (Tournament Secretary, West of Scotland League).

A DENIAL

SIR :—I would like to draw your attention to a letter in the March issue of the *Digest* from a certain F. Bamford, which infers that I have made a wager on table tennis matters and have paid out 2/6 as a result of same.

I absolutely refute the allegation and consider the implication as being damaging to my position as chairman of the Lancashire Table Tennis Association and also to my professional reputation.

I expect you to take steps to verify the facts and to publish a complete denial.—T. BLUNN (Acacia).

LATE ARRIVALS

SIR :—On the points raised in the March *Digest* I feel constrained to write on the matter of later arrivals.

If one is disposed to overlook

the current bad manners, there still remains the fact that late arrivals often cause an opposing captain to concede any tactical advantage from choice of play as invariably the application of the rule is sidestepped to avoid any unpleasantness.

In your Comment it was suggested that one day a courageous captain will follow the league ruling. No need to be courageous if stricter interpretation of all rules was strongly and publicly supported by the committee and individual members.

But to play according to rules at present quickly earns a reputation for bad sportsmanship as happened last season when my club claimed two games from a notable player who made his unapologetic appearance at 8-45 p.m.

May I also refer to the spate of abuse which has been directed at the reformer in our midst. If Mr. Bamford was not so parochial he would know that Tom Blunn is now entering his 20th year in table tennis and in that period has devoted more time and energy to furthering the game in Lancashire than most of his violent player-critics.

His criticisms, even if he is guilty of a hasty remark at times, are aimed at stirring players to seek the best conditions as their ideals.

Continued on Page 24

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FINAL MATCH ENSURED STATUS

AFTER faltering 6—4 to Manchester B, the A team made certain of their place in the first division by a decisive 9—1 victory over Bolton B. Our relegation problem was also helped by Stockport losing to Bolton, which left us in a clear position.

The match against Manchester was remarkable in that Bill Pierce, who has not had a good season, won all his three sets without losing a game, while Ron Rumjahn and Reg Hetherington could only win the doubles set after losing all their singles.

Against Bolton B on the following evening, spurred by the defeat of the previous night and the need for two points to make really sure of retaining first division status, there was no doubt about the result.

Reg Hetherington was the only loser. Bernard Hand, who took Bill Pierce's place in the team, won his three sets by comfortable margins and showed that he is recovering his old form after his spell in the Forces.

All-Victorious

The B team completed their programme with two easy victories over Ellesmere Port B (10—0) and, in what was virtually the deciding match for the championship, over Runcorn (8—2). This also meant that they finished the season with a 100 per cent record.

The team's honours are due in no small measure to Vic Chesham, who was undefeated, and to Bill Harris, who lost only two games during the season. The team can now look forward to stronger opposition in the second division next season.

The Women's team completed their programme when they met their old rivals, Manchester. Our girls proved themselves the equal of Manchester on this occasion, but on the season's reckoning once again have to be content with the position of runners-up.

After taking an early lead, the Liverpool side found themselves 5—3 down but some good play by Kay Casselman and Eileen Mansell restored the balance and the match finished with honours even.

A feature was that Dell Pettifer (Wood) lost all her three games. It would require an historian to find out when this last happened. Our set winners were Eileen Mansell (2), Kay Casselman (2) and Beryl Waterson.

Division 1

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bolton A	10	8	1	1	69	31	17
Manchester A	10	7	1	2	64	36	16
Liverpool A	10	4	4	2	51	49	10
Manchester B	9	3	5	1	42	48	7
Stockport	10	1	5	4	39	61	6
Bolton B	9	0	7	2	25	65	2

Division 3—West

Liverpool B	10	10	0	0	82	18	20
Runcorn	10	8	2	0	69	31	16
Wirral B	9	5	4	0	67	33	10
Warrington	7	1	5	1	22	48	3
Widnes	10	1	8	1	23	77	3
Ellesmere P. B. ...	8	1	7	0	17	63	2

Women's Division 1

Manchester	8	6	0	2	56	24	14
Liverpool	8	4	2	2	47	33	10
Bury	8	2	3	2	35	45	6
Blackpool	8	2	5	1	32	48	5
Crewe	8	1	4	3	30	50	5

Continued from Page 23

We of Acacia admitted a fault in our table by setting out to remedy the trouble caused by warping and have not acted like ostriches. The difference was actually five-eighths of an inch and a completely remodelled base has been fitted, which has involved us in a little more labour than the sawing off of the legs.—F. W. CHRISTOPHER (Acacia).

PERSONAL

Mr. W. R. Crafter, chairman of Cadwa, writes that the views expressed by H. Cohen in his letter published last month were personal and not necessarily those of the club.