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OF THE

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Digest

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W. Stamp A. Montgomery

COMMENT

THIS has been a momentous season, if not in the playing sense, for if as seems certain, the proposals put forward at the Special General Meeting, are ratified at the A.G.M., then the biggest change in the construction of the peace time League, since Les Forrests' formation of the Regions in the mid' thirties, will have been made.

It seems however that there are several other matters which might be gone into thoroughly before the A.G.M. but we will confine ourselves to just one.

First and foremost is the question of short teams, a problem which has been coming increasingly to the fore through the season, until now it has reached such a pass that something must surely be done about it.

We know of one player who in the closing six weeks of the season never once played his allotted two sets, because of this shocking laxity, and personally we feel that active measures with penalties for continual offenders may be the only answer to the problem.

The clubs did not agree with the Management that increased registrations were necessary, for reasons which may well be valid, but we feel that if there is no need for such an increase, the onus is thrown back on to clubs to clean up this shocking blot on the League's reputation.

We have heard enough to make us realise that many scores are filled in of matches never played, and the total must be well in advance of the official figures. Clubs allowing this to be done, should realise that many others are suffering because of their mistaken ideas of kindness. It is time these persistent offenders were rooted out of the League, as they are of no value, and the League would be far better without them.

Though the tried performers continued to hold almost complete sway from start to finish, towards the end of the season a number of youngsters attracted attention, sufficient in fact to give hope that at last the younger generation may soon make a stern challenge to the seniors. We earnestly hope that this may be so, for we are certain that it is from this group that sooner or later the player will appear who will place Liverpool, in the playing sense, high among the best in the country, and we have waited, for that happy day, far too long already.

BIG MAJORITY IN FAVOUR OF NEW LEAGUE PLAN

By W. STAMP.



THE Special General Meeting on March 30th discussed the re-organisation as set out in our last issue, and it was evident that many clubs had held meetings and given the matter a lot of thought, with the result that many questions were asked and constructive suggestions put forward, and incorporated in the scheme which was passed by 118 votes to 13.

Three clubs comprised the opposition of 13 votes, viz:—Balfour (6), English Electric (4), and Littlewoods (3), with Rafter's (4) abstaining. There were 12 clubs with 19 votes not represented. The rule changes consequent on this decision will be circularised for ratification at the A.G.M. in May.

I would again draw your attention to the fact that the closing date for applications to the League in future will be JUNE 30th. Clubs are asked to call their meetings for election of officers, decide their match night and the number of teams they wish to enter, before this date, as the particulars are for insertion in the handbook.

The new date will not only facilitate the administration of the League, but will enable clubs to plan their next winter programme in good time.

Competition Winners

I must apologise for not announcing the prize winners in the Name Cards competition in January as promised, but great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the returns from some clubs.

The clubs selling the most number of cards in proportion to their registrations was Wavertree Labour, who sold 19 cards with 12 registered players, and

they will receive a donation of £5.0.0. towards their club funds. The table tennis bat and one dozen balls to the player selling the most number of cards, was won by Mr. Fenna (Wavertree Labour), who sold 14 cards.

Congratulations to the following clubs who did a good job of work, not forgetting their energetic secretaries who inspired their members and collected the money. Anfield (35), Brenka (20), Balfour (22), Cadwa (26), Cheshire Lines (29), Littlewoods (25) and Oakhill (30).

The proceeds of the competition were to help the Magazine finances and to form a coaching fund for young and promising players, and whilst the amount available has certainly bolstered up the magazine for this year, the solution for the future lies in the members having to pay for the postage, instead of the League doing it as at present.

The balance to go into a coaching fund, will not go very far when present day fees and travelling expenses are taken into account, and we cannot therefore be as ambitious as we had hoped. The pity of it all is, that the competition could have been an unqualified success had everyone pulled their weight (remember we only asked that every registered member sold ONE card).

The following clubs did not sell any at all—Aigburth, Bootle Y.M., Dennis, Domestic, Linacre, Lussac, R.A.F. Assn., R.A.F. Movements, St. Dominics and Wavertree Community Centre, and in two instances it was obvious that

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LEADING AVERAGES FOR SEASON

The following are the players with the leading averages for the season in all twelve divisions. Qualification is at least 20 sets and all League matches, and cup-ties are included.

Players having an * before their name, indicates they have played at least half their matches at 1 or 2.

FIRST DIVISION

Player & Club	P.	W.	%
*E. J. Rumjahn (Raft A)	64	59	92.18
*W. Pierce (L. Y.M.) ...	44	39	88.63
*R. M. Rumjahn (Raft A)	61	53	86.88
*B. Hand (15th Crosby)	64	52	81.25
H. Wilcock (Balf A) ...	66	51	77.27
*F. Bamford (15th Cros)	55	42	76.35
*A. T. Smith (Balf A)	70	53	75.71
J. Watts (15th Crosby)	57	43	75.43
D. Ferguson (Raft. A)	42	31	73.80
*K. S. Gaulton (Balf. A)	60	44	73.33
*N. R. Jones (Balfour)	48	35	72.91
L. Davies (Balfour)	44	32	72.72
*P. U. Rumjahn (Raft.)	64	46	71.85
H. Read (Oakhill) ...	56	40	71.42
D. S. Bruce (Anfield A)	50	35	70.00
*R. Heatherington (Balf)	50	35	70.00

SECOND DIVISION

Player & Club	P.	W.	%
*A. Taylor (Litherland)	50	45	90.00
*J. Rimmer (Lucam) ...	51	40	78.43
*T. Ellis (W.C.C.) ...	26	20	76.92
*W. Allanson (Boot Y.M.)	59	44	74.57
*D. Henwood (Lither)	54	39	72.22
F. Thomas (Linnet) ...	53	38	71.69
D. Foulis (Lucem) ...	42	30	71.42
*G. Gower (C.L.C.) ...	51	36	70.58
*R. Hulse (W.C.C.) ...	36	25	69.44
J. Stewart (Boot. Y.M.)	57	39	68.42
J. Storey (Vic. Pk.) ...	49	33	67.34
*J. Seddon (Wat. Dk.)	50	33	66.00
*M. Truman (Vic. Pk.)	49	32	65.30
*L. Mason (Linnet) ...	53	34	64.15
D. West (Bohs.) ...	46	29	63.04
K. Boden (Lucem) ...	56	35	62.50
B. Reeves (W.C.C.) ...	24	15	62.50

THIRD DIVISION

Player & Club	P.	W.	%
*G. Aspinall (Bath St.)	58	53	91.37
L. Gee (Anfield B) ...	46	38	82.60
*B. Townsend (Ost.) ...	57	46	80.70
R. Young (L. Y.M. A)	54	40	74.07
*D. Jones (I.C.I.) ...	46	33	71.73
J. Brierley (Anfield B)	52	36	69.23
K. Wright (L. Y.M. A)	36	24	66.66
A. Roberts (L. Y.M. A)	56	37	66.08
*E. Smiton (Eng. Elec.)	56	37	66.08
*S. Draper (Bohs. A) ...	44	29	65.90
*A. Gould (Bath St.) ...	58	37	63.97
*H. Roberts (Anfield B)	40	25	62.50
*J. Taylor (L. Y.M. A)	56	35	62.50
*E. Barnes (Anfield B)	52	31	59.61
H. Dean (Bath St.) ...	32	19	59.37
*W. Crafter (Cadwa) ...	34	20	58.82

FOURTH DIVISION

Player & Club	P.	W.	%
*R. McManus (Bohs. B)	24	23	95.83
I. Rogerson (B. Y.M. A)	56	45	80.35
Mrs. B. Waterson (Loft)	41	32	78.04
*H. Harkness (Panto)	43	33	76.74
W. Slater (Panto) ...	57	42	73.68
*R. Mason (Panto) ...	52	38	73.07
*A. Harris (Boot. Y.M. A)	48	35	72.91
*W. Askew (Lofters) ...	51	36	70.58
C. Bray (Wat. Pk.) ...	53	37	69.81
C. Manning (Vic. Pk. c)	48	33	68.75
A. Hill (Dom. M.) ...	46	31	67.39
W. Bent (Boot. Y.M. A)	56	37	66.08
P. Coulter (Panto) ...	50	32	64.00
Miss N. Lamb (Lofters)	22	14	63.63
*L. Hunter (Vic. Pk. c)	46	29	63.04
R. Musker (Wat. Pk.)	46	29	63.04

LADIES FIRST DIVISION

Player & Club	P.	W.	%
*L. Rumjahn (Rafters)	46	44	95.65
*K. Casselman (Rafters)	20	19	95.00
*M. Jones (Bohs.) ...	46	41	89.13
W. Finnetty (Lofters)	56	49	87.50
J. Lloyd (Lofters) ...	42	36	85.71
G. Gleed (Bohs.) ...	48	40	83.33
*B. Waterson (Lofters)	56	46	82.14
K. Rumjahn (Rafters)	52	42	80.76
S. Farrell (Bohs.) ...	30	24	80.00
D. Mezey (Bohs.) ...	20	16	80.00
J. Richardson (Balfour)	42	33	78.57
*J. Brennand (Rafters)	52	40	76.92
*I. Howley (Anfield) ...	40	29	72.50
*R. Royle (Anfield) ...	48	34	70.83
*I. Crafter (Oakhill) ...	34	24	70.58
P. Spranger (Balfour)	34	24	70.58

LADIES SECOND DIVISION

Player & Club	P.	W.	%
*J. Fortune (Wat. Pk.)	40	37	92.50
*J. Jones (W.C.C.) ...	46	39	84.78
E. Cubley (Beau I & A)	38	32	84.21
L. Olsen (Wat. Pk.) ...	44	37	84.09
D. Campbell (Wat. Pk.)	22	18	81.81
L. Wynne (Ost.) ...	36	28	77.77
E. Daniels (Wat. Pk.)	40	31	77.50
J. Lloyd (Little. A) ...	44	33	75.00
*R. Trampnow (Ost.) ...	40	30	75.00
W. Ramsey (Aig.) ...	42	31	73.80
E. Royal (Aig.) ...	32	23	71.87
P. Lewis (Ost.) ...	24	17	70.83
*M. Patterson (Beau.)	40	28	70.00
*N. Wass (Aigburth) ...	42	29	69.04
*E. Owen (Lucem) ...	34	23	67.64
*E. Scott (Wat. Pk.) ...	46	31	67.39

AVERAGES—Continued

NORTH—FIRST DIVISION

Player & Club	P.	W.	%
*J. Lovelady (15 Cros A)	26	23	88.46
A. Williams (B. Y.M. B)	40	34	85.00
*L. Cairns (Boot. Y.M. B)	46	39	84.78
*J. Owen (Mag.)	49	40	81.63
J. Edwards (Little.)	38	31	81.57
*J. Hay (Brenka)	42	34	80.95
*W. Tobin (Maghull)	47	39	80.85
*P. Turtle (Everton Y.M.)	46	37	80.43
*D. Styles (Little. A)	46	35	76.08
E. Anderson (Little. A)	28	21	75.00
H. Kitchen (Eng. El. A)	48	35	72.91
G. Every (Little.)	46	33	71.73
D. Hunter (B. Y.M. B)	46	33	71.73
P. Whalley (Maghull)	47	33	70.21
K. Horton (Little. A)	32	22	68.75
R. Gillies (Little.)	40	27	67.50

NORTH—SECOND DIVISION

Player & Club	P.	W.	%
*H. Dean (Bath St. A)	20	19	95.00
*L. Lewis (Anfield D)	44	36	81.81
B. Crolley (B. Y.M. B)	49	39	81.25
*W. Spencer (Wat. Pk. C)	36	29	80.55
*B. Davies (B. Y.M. B)	44	35	79.54
R. McKenna (B. Y.M. B)	38	30	78.94
T. Flattery (E. El. B, C)	42	33	78.57
K. Readitt (Wat. Pk. C)	28	22	78.57
*T. Owen (B. Y.M. B)	42	32	76.19
E. Halsall (Brown. Pk.)	46	35	76.08
*L. McArt (Brown. Pk.)	46	35	76.08
P. Murphy (L. Co-op)	38	27	71.05
*B. Fare (Eng. El. B)	44	31	70.45
G. Beattie (B. Y.M. B)	48	32	66.66
*R. Blagden (Wat. Pk. B)	24	16	66.66
T. Warwick (Bro. Pk.)	46	30	65.21

EAST REGION

Player & Club	P.	W.	%
G. Nelson (L.P.A.S. A)	50	43	86.00
*A. Moorcroft (Ost. A)	46	39	84.78
D. Newman (Vags.)	46	39	84.78
K. Davies (Vags.)	32	27	84.37
*A. Heague (L.P.A.S. A)	50	42	84.00
*J. Conroy (L.P.A.S. A)	52	43	82.69
*M. Gallagher (Vags.)	59	48	81.35
*W. Gollinge (Cad. A, C)	20	16	80.00
K. McKechnie (Balf. D)	28	22	78.57
*J. O'Keefe (Edward.)	46	35	76.08
*A. Keamey (Cad. A, C)	24	18	75.00
T. Johnstone (Vags.)	59	43	72.88
G. Mitchell (L.P. A, B)	54	38	70.37
L. Murray (Balf. D)	36	25	69.44
T. Cunningham (Edw'd)	22	15	68.18
*W. Savage (Vags.)	59	40	67.79

CENTRAL REGION 1st DIVISION

Player & Club	P.	W.	%
*J. Robinson (R.A.F.A.)	56	50	89.28
*B. Oxlade (Anfield C)	44	39	88.63
*K. Davies (Vags. A)	20	17	85.00
D. Mahen (Anfield C)	42	35	83.33
C. Jones (L. Y.M. B)	50	40	80.00
*E. Handley (O. Xavs.)	51	40	78.43
J. Ley (D. Post)	32	25	78.12
G. Elliott (Vags. A)	20	15	75.00
D. Loughrey (L. Y.M. B)	48	35	72.91
*W. Shepherd (Luc. A)	22	16	72.72
J. Roberts (Anfield C)	48	33	68.75
D. Walter (Linn. B)	44	30	68.18
A. Smith (Anfield C)	50	34	68.00
W. Johnson (Panto A)	40	27	67.50
*T. Smith (O. Xavs.)	51	34	66.66
*A. Fowler (Panto A)	44	29	65.90

CENTRAL REGION 2nd DIVISION

Player & Club	P.	W.	%
*Wildblood (R.A.F. M.)	31	28	90.32
C. Briggs (R.A.F. M.)	48	43	89.58
*J. Anderson (R.A.F. M)	45	40	88.88
B. Duplan (Stanley H.)	20	17	85.00
*J. Bennett (Peel H.)	46	39	84.78
R. Hemming (R.A.F.M)	36	29	80.55
T. Williams (Stanley H.)	40	32	80.00
*R. Wilson (Livex B)	34	26	76.47
*R. Jones (Deaf Inst.)	42	32	76.19
*E. Moran (Ches. L. C)	32	23	71.87
K. Garner (Ches. L. B)	42	30	71.42
*E. Cheng (Stanley H.)	38	27	71.05
*D. Warrell (Oakhill D)	44	31	70.45
W. Evans (Stanley H.)	40	32	69.44
J. Annand (R.A.F. M.)	47	32	68.93
*T. Buchanan (Ches. L. B)	48	33	68.75

SOUTH REGION

Player & Club	P.	W.	%
J. Grayson (Ches. L A)	46	44	95.66
C. Grimes (Ches. L. A)	46	44	95.65
*D. Rodrigues (Linn. A)	26	23	88.46
O. Hughes (Ches. L. A)	44	38	86.36
*R. Burge (Ches. L. A)	42	36	85.71
L. Carter (Beau.)	42	35	83.33
B. Pardy (Linn. A)	40	32	80.00
*S. Donnelly (Aig.)	40	31	77.50
F. Farrell (Beauclair)	42	32	76.19
*S. Porter (Beauclair)	42	32	76.19
G. Kettle (Ches. L. A)	30	24	75.00
*R. Weston (Beauclair)	52	38	73.07
E. Wass (Aigburth)	40	29	72.50
R. Palmer (Ches. L. A)	38	27	71.05
T. Edwards (Dennis)	44	29	65.90
J. McKim (Beauclair)	52	34	65.38

(Excluding Cadwa B—Linnets 'A.)

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Basnett St. LIVERPOOL 1

From the Secretary's Desk—Continued

the cards had never even been handed to the members. Other clubs sold either one or two cards and many and varied were the excuses put forward for doing nothing, and I quote the letter received from Mr. Green, the secretary of Linnets.

“ Herewith please find cheque value 10/- together with 48 unused cards. One card was sold by M. Murphy, the other I have ‘bought’ myself since I do not wish to penalise the League in any way on account of my very strong views as to the legality of the scheme.

We have found that our members were not willing to put their backs into this idea, the main reason being that, like myself, they do not think it complies with the law, and just would not sell them on that account. Others, as you know is always the case, could not be bothered.”

The League officials through their Secretary, had taken good care of the “legality of the scheme” and perhaps

he could verify the legal aspect from one of the two clubs to sell all the cards they received, viz. Bootle Police.

For years the Linnets Club have been raising funds for themselves by football doubles or trebles etc., and the selling of the tickets has not been confined to their own club—I have recollections of them selling tickets at a closed tournament. Apparently it is quite in order whatever Linnets do, but wrong when done by the League, and the assertion that our competition was illegal had no foundation in fact, and was merely an excuse to *do nothing*. Or could it be that the selling of anything for the League might interfere with Linnet's market ?

One thing we have learnt however, is that if the League wishes to embark on anything in the future which they cannot afford out of income, the obvious answer is to raise it in the orthodox way by increasing League fees.

The legality of this ought to satisfy even Mr. Green.

Amazing Finish To Season

THE season has finished in an amazing climax. Both the league championship and the Readman Cup have ended in a "telephoto" finish.

Balfour A, who were leading by a couple of points from Rafters A, were beaten by their own B team in the critical stages to make the leadership a dead-heat.

Balfour A won their last game against Y.M.C.A., 7-3, which meant that Rafters A had to beat Balfour B in their final match by a better score. But the Rafters team had not reckoned on W. Wong beating Ron Rumjahn, so that the match ended in Rafters A only winning 7-3, thus sharing the title with Balfour A on points and sets.

Points Decision

Similarly the Readman Cup final was as close, 15th Crosby and Balfour A being level on sets and games at the end of the match and the destiny of the cup being decided by points advantage in favour of Crosby.

The season has been an arduous one, competition between the teams very keen and fortunes have varied accordingly. Some players have shown a marked improvement generally and others have had patches of brilliance although only possessing a mediocre record.

To mention a few there are Oakes and Grant (Oakhill), Killip, Cuff and Fay (Anfield A), Greensmith (Anfield), the McKechnie brothers (Balfour B), Ferguson and Short (Rafters) and Rigby (Y.M.C.A.).

The giant killers have been Tony Smith (Balfour), second to have obtained a double over Ted and Ron since Bernard Hand, and D. Bruce (Anfield), with amazing wins over Bill Pierce, Hand, Reg Hetherington and Les Davies.

Value of Attack

Whirlwind attack can produce these results as Bruce has shown. It can upset the steadiest and most talented of players as the Japanese teams have shown in their double cup triumphs in the world championships.

It is the type of game that spectators enjoy, instead of the farcical time-limit affairs. I would like to see the majority of our division adopting these tactics and winning points on their merit instead of by the errors of their opponents.

Congratulations to two teams who have ended with a successful flourish. Oakhill drew with Balfour, beat Anfield A 8-2, Y.M.C.A. 6-4 (thanks to Oakes beating Pierce 22-20 in the third after being down 15-20) and then Balfour B 7-3.

The other team, Anfield A, beat Y.M.C.A. 6-4, Crosby 6-4 and drew 5-5 with Balfour. Killip, Bruce, Cohen, Cuff and Fay are a youthful team with potentiality.

As the season closes there are the usual feelings of exultation and heart-break, and with the proposed reorganisation we may see quite a difference in the division next season.

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Fatal Matches For Linnets

THIS is naturally the appropriate time to look back over the season, with the League fixtures now complete. All worries and hopes of relegation or promotion are finally settled, and we can relax a little and look forward to next season.

At the top of the division we had a real fighting finish between five teams, and the championship was not decided until the last three games.

Linnets, who looked certain champions a month ago, suffered a defeat at Victoria Park on March 23rd, and then drew with Litherland at home, which was fatal. Lucem, who were second, two points behind, continued to win, and so gained the championship. Their winning Line-up for most of the season was J. Rimmer, D. Foulis, J. Charnock, W. Shepherd. I can't think of the other chap, but it is my honest impression they are worthy champions.

Two Good Teams

In the relegation zone, Waterloo Dock and Rafters B finished bottom in that order, but at full strength are two good teams. We wish them well, and know that if their determination persists they will recover their lost status.

Now, briefly about the other teams. Oakhill A who started to climb up to the top during the middle of the season, fell away badly at the end. Litherland lost to Rafters B without A. C. Taylor, just when they needed the points.

Victoria Park seem well satisfied with their position of fourth, especially after beating Linnets 6-4. Their weakness appears to have been at No. 5.

Cheshire Lines, Bohemians, Bootle Y.M.C.A. and Wavertree all enjoyed themselves without worrying unduly about the League, and seemed satisfied to stay put this year in the hope of strengthening their team for next season. Anyway everybody agrees, unless improvements are made, Lucem and Linnets would be lucky to hold their own in the first division and stay there.

Finally, a round of applause for each of the following:—A. C. Taylor (Litherland), who, as top of the individual merit list, is the outstanding player in this division, F. Thomas (Linnets), whose great improvement brought him

from No. 3 to No. 1 in his side, he will do well in the first division; W. Allanson (Bootle Y.M.C.A.); J. Rimmer and D. Foulis (Lucem), and J. Seddon (Waterloo Dock), who deserve a word of praise for their fine performances.

So far as my experiences are concerned this season, I have seen some first-class games, but the average age of the players is around 28, and there seems to be an absence of young talent. Why this should be so, I do not know.

Before I go, I would like to suggest that all matches commence at 7 o'clock instead of 7-30 next season. We might avoid the late finishing which has been so prominent in the division this season. If you agree put your views forward at the Annual General Meeting.

The June 30 Deadline

SIR:—The proposal of entering teams by June 30th must surely create an all-time low in Liverpool League administration. How any club can give a correct or even a near correct assessment of their team strength three months before the season starts, is beyond my comprehension.

Now that the recent meeting is over we find the net result is that no clubs will be allowed more than two teams in the first four divisions and no teams will be allowed promotion from Division 5 unless the committee say so.

Surely a much easier solution would have been an amendment to rules at the A.G.M. stipulating that no club would be allowed more than two teams in one division. This would have prevented one of the following anomalies taking place—(a) the breaking up of the breeding grounds of any potential first class players (i.e. the first class clubs), and goodness knows we need them in Liverpool; (b) the first-class clubs keeping together and walking away with Division 5 year after year, getting their practice in with their fellow good players, getting their medals, and killing any incentive or hope any of the smaller fry may have of higher things.

I suggest that the alterations do not affect we "lower classes," unless the last phrase in the last paragraph applies. J. A. LAMBERT, (English Electric).

HARD LUCK, ANFIELD CHAMPIONS

ONE does not know whether to congratulate Anfield B on their magnificent championship success or to commiserate with them on their almost certain relegation to Division Five, yes, Division Five, because as their club's third string they will be due for the big drop from which there is no return to a higher status.

They will be in good company however, and if present strength is any guide, they will find it a much harder job to win the Division Five Championship than they did the Division Three this season.

With Anfield going down there will be vacancies in Division Two for quite a few of us. Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A, Bath Street, Cadwa and Osterley may be lucky.

Best Ever

Bath Street will be feeling very pleased with life. Promotion although third in the league, is a pleasant thought, and with the Rumjahn Cup on their sideboard they can look back on their best ever year.

Poor old Y.M.C.A. A, squeezed out of honours, paid the penalty of being *pace-maker*. They deserved a better fate, but the tenseness of the struggle played havoc with them at the season's end. They lost the cup on sets after a 5-5 draw,—never a satisfactory way of winning or losing a cup final. But let us not detract from Bath Street's fine effort.

Technical Students and Linacre finished as expected. They will be hoping that the re-organisation of the League will help them retain their status.

Most clubs and players I have spoken to have enjoyed the season, but all this talk of fiddles with which the magazine has been filled has had a bad effect. There always have been a few fiddles and despite new rules there always will be, but constant talk and reports has made clubs and players "fiddle-conscious" and tended to throw the whole thing out of perspective. If by any chance I cover these notes next

season, I for one will do my utmost to avoid the subject entirely.

Just a few credits to finish up. The player I liked best, D. Young of Liverpool Y.M.C.A.; The most successful player, "The Spider," Bath Street: The most temperamental player, G. Aspinall, Bath Street: The best old timer, R. Hough, Liverpool Police: The most promising youngster, B. Smith, Technical Students.

Defence of Juniors

SIR:—After reading the report by J. D. Loughrey on the Closed finals at the Y.M.C.A., I must complain in the strongest possible manner, regarding his comments on the junior singles.

Firstly, he seemingly belittles the winner by writing, L. Cairns was "from the Regions" where as his opponent F. Cuff plays in the First Division. We are not concerned with the division they are representing, provided they both comply with the age regulation.

Secondly, he remarks on the finalists "terrible mannerisms." To publicly criticise the two finest juniors on Merseyside truly amazed me. This is certainly not the way to encourage our promising youngsters.

There was a further point which aroused my indignation, the remarks regarding D. Bruce being a "trifle fortunate" in reaching the final of the Consolation Event. A glance at the League statistics will prove that on occasions Bruce is capable of defeating the best players Liverpool can produce. C. FAY, (Anfield).

J. D. Loughrey writes:—I am borne out in my belief that my comments re gum chewing were fair by the fact that Bootle Y.M. felt the remarks were not too severe. My regard for Bruce's play is high, but still feel he was somewhat lucky to defeat Eric Wall in the Men's Consolation. It is possible to make such a comment on one individual set, and not thereby imply the player concerned cannot play much better on other occasions.

MAXWELL FYFE AND FOULIS CUPS

By J. D. LOUGHREY

A splendid evenings play, with many of the sets being decided by the closest possible margin and the standard being universally high, made a fitting climax to this season's Maxwell Fyfe and Foulis Cup competitions.

Ian Rogerson had to survive a series of terrific battles before emerging the winner of the Maxwell Fyfe Cup. His coolness under the circumstances—he had five times to carry on after deuce was called and won four of the games—is quite remarkable. Though he was several times in imminent danger of defeat, I feel he deserved much praise in showing so much courage during the numerous crisis, particularly as he is still lacking in experience.

The best of his battles possibly was against Bintley of Anfield, who had to concede seven points a game. This set took a long time to decide, as Bintley settled grimly to his task and was not to be tricked into making mistakes. With Rogerson refusing to be drawn into rash hitting, it became a dour struggle, and it was not surprising that all three games were decided on a deuce.

Great Courage

The other finalist, E. F. Anderson, also showed astonishing courage for a youngster, and kept his head wonderfully well at crucial moments, during earlier rounds. These two North-end boys gave an exhibition worthy of the occasion, and remembering their ages there must be hope that either of them might train on to become useful members of a higher division than at present.

The Don Foulis Cup provided excellent performances as well, but more particularly it underlined the fact that Joyce Richardson has come on a great deal this season. In a wonderful final she beat Moya Jones, after the latter, playing excellently, had pulled back

her 10 point handicap to 25 all in the third game.

How strange it is that this should happen so often, but the Balfour girl gets praise for refusing to panic and continuing to play her normal game. Her semi-final match with Kay Rumjahn was also desperately close and might have gone either way.

A remark of Don Foulis that the most improved player of the league would win these competitions, seems to have a deal of truth as in the closing stages the standard of play was extremely good and reference to records shows that both winners have shown big advances in results from the previous season.

Maxwell Fyfe

Details. First round—M. Cohen beat C. Casselman 25—31, 31—24, 31—26; E. Anderson beat R. Mason 27—31, 31—22, 31—19.

Second round—J. Grant beat A. Harris 28—31, 31—22, 31—26; I. Rogerson beat W. Bintley 32—30, 30—32, 32—30; J. Seddon beat Cohen 31—26, 24—31, 31—28; Anderson beat J. Brierley 31—24, 31—29.

Semi-final—Anderson beat Grant 31—25, 33—31; Rogerson beat Seddon 31—29, 33—31.

Final—Rogerson beat Anderson 31—29, 17—31, 32—30.

Don Foulis

Semi-final—J. Richardson beat K. Rumjahn 29—31, 33—31, 31—29; M. Jones beat A. Brown 31—25, 31—28.

Final—J. Richardson beat M. Jones 31—26, 31—33, 31—29.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour A.....	22	16	2	4	152	68	36
Rafters A	22	15	1	6	152	68	36
15th Crosby ...	22	14	4	4	135	85	32
Balfour	22	14	5	3	143	77	31
Oakhill	22	10	9	3	111	109	23
Anfield	22	9	9	4	114	106	22
L'pool Y.M. ...	22	8	9	5	114	106	21
Balfour B	22	8	10	4	99	121	20
Rafters	22	7	11	4	111	109	18
Anfield A	22	6	12	4	82	138	16
Livev.....	22	3	16	3	81	139	9
African Oil	22	0	22	0	26	194	0

Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Lucem	22	15	4	3	139	81	33
Linnets	22	15	5	2	130	90	32
Litherland	22	12	4	6	125	95	30
Victoria Park ...	22	14	6	2	122	98	30
Oakhill A	22	13	7	2	116	104	28
Bootle Y.M. ...	22	10	8	4	118	102	24
Cheshire Lines	22	9	8	5	112	108	23
Bohemians	22	8	11	3	112	108	19
W'tree C.C.....	22	6	12	4	100	120	16
Balfour C	22	6	15	1	89	131	13
Waterloo Dock	22	3	16	3	83	137	9
Rafters B	22	3	18	1	74	146	7

Third Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Anfield B	22	19	2	1	145	75	39
L'pool Y.M. A	22	16	4	2	147	73	34
Bath Street	22	15	3	4	140	80	34
Cadwa	22	12	7	3	115	105	27
Osterley	22	9	9	4	118	102	22
Victoria Park A	22	8	10	4	111	109	20
L.P.A.S.	22	8	11	3	104	116	19
I.C.I.	22	7	11	4	105	115	18
English Electric	22	7	12	3	89	131	17
Bohemians A ...	22	7	13	2	95	125	16
Linacre	22	4	16	2	80	140	10
Tech Students...	22	3	17	2	71	149	8

Fourth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Panto	22	19	1	2	159	61	40
Bootle Y.M. A	22	18	0	4	157	63	40
Lofters	22	12	5	5	123	97	29
Waterloo Park	22	13	8	1	138	82	27
Bohemians B ...	22	10	9	3	103	117	23
Victoria Park C	22	8	11	3	105	115	19
Domestic Miss.	22	7	11	4	103	117	18
Livev A	22	7	11	4	96	124	18
Oakhill B.....	22	7	12	3	107	113	17
W'tree C.C. A	22	7	13	2	95	125	16
Victoria Park B	22	3	15	4	76	144	10
African Oil A...	22	2	17	3	58	162	7

WOMEN'S—Division 1

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bohemians	22	18	2	2	160	60	38
Lofters	22	17	1	4	158	62	38
Rafters	22	16	2	4	149	71	36
Balfour	22	15	5	2	141	79	32
Oakhill	22	13	6	3	135	85	29
Anfield	22	10	9	3	113	107	23
Bibby's	22	9	10	3	107	113	21
Littlewoods	22	6	13	3	87	133	15
Linnets	22	7	15	0	97	123	14
Cheshire Lines	22	3	17	2	72	148	8
Brenka	22	4	18	0	56	164	8
Linnets A	22	1	21	0	45	175	2

WOMEN'S—Division II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Waterloo Park	22	19	0	3	168	52	41
Osterley	22	15	2	5	151	69	35
Beauclair	22	15	4	3	155	65	33
W'tree C.C.....	22	11	7	4	129	91	26
Aigburth	22	11	8	3	120	100	25
Littlewoods A...	22	11	9	2	106	114	24
Bohemians A ...	22	9	8	5	127	93	23
Leyfield	22	8	9	5	108	112	21
Lucem	22	9	11	2	100	120	20
Dunlop	22	2	16	4	62	158	8
Beauclair A ...	22	2	18	2	54	166	6
Catholic Metro	22	0	20	2	40	180	2

NORTH REGIONAL 1

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bootle Y.M. B	22	19	2	1	150	70	39
Maghull,	22	18	3	1	151	69	37
Litherland A ...	22	14	3	5	137	83	33
Littlewoods	22	15	6	1	131	89	31
English Elec. A	22	12	6	4	126	94	28
Everton Y.M. ...	22	10	8	4	117	103	24
Brenka	22	8	10	4	103	117	20
Warbreck Moor	22	5	14	3	96	124	13
W'loo Dock A	22	6	15	1	86	134	13
W'loo Park A	22	4	15	3	79	141	11
Lofters A.....	22	3	16	3	85	135	9
15th Crosby A	22	2	18	2	59	161	6

NORTH REGIONAL II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bootle Y.M. C	22	21	1	0	174	46	42
English Elec. B	22	17	3	2	148	72	36
Brownmoor Park	22	15	5	2	144	76	32
W'loo Park C ...	22	14	5	3	138	82	31
Litherland B ...	22	10	6	6	124	96	26
Bath Street A...	22	10	10	2	116	104	22
Anfield D	22	7	10	5	97	123	19
W'loo Park B...	22	5	12	5	93	127	15
Co-op	22	5	13	4	89	131	14
English Elec. C	22	5	14	3	81	139	13
Maghull A	22	2	16	4	58	162	8
Bootle Police ...	22	3	19	0	58	162	6

LEAGUE TABLES

SOUTH REGIONAL

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
<i>Cheshire Lines A</i>	20	20	0	0	176	24	40
Beauclair	20	18	2	0	162	38	36
Linnets A	20	15	4	1	139	61	31
Cadwa B	20	10	6	4	106	94	24
Aigburth	20	10	7	3	108	92	23
Dennis	20	7	11	2	92	108	16
Linnets C	20	7	11	2	87	113	16
W'tree C.C. B	20	7	11	2	85	115	16
Dunlop	20	5	13	2	78	122	12
St. Peters	20	2	17	1	41	159	5
Domestic Miss A	20	0	19	1	26	174	1
Aigburth Meths	Resigned.						

EAST REGIONAL

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
<i>Vagabonds</i>	22	20	1	1	184	36	41
L.P.A.S. A	22	20	1	1	172	48	41
Balfour D	22	15	5	2	132	88	32
Osterley A	22	12	7	3	119	101	27
Cadwa A	22	11	8	3	119	101	25
Cadwa C	22	11	8	3	116	104	25
W'tree Labour...	22	10	9	3	117	103	23
Edwardians	22	5	14	3	89	131	13
Leyfield	22	5	14	3	89	131	13
L.P.A.S. B	22	4	15	3	68	152	11
St. Dominics ...	22	2	17	3	64	156	7
Fairlawn	22	3	19	0	51	169	6

CENTRAL REGIONAL I

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
<i>Anfield C</i>	22	20	1	1	171	49	41
L'pool Y.M. B	22	15	4	3	144	76	33
Panto A	22	14	5	3	137	83	31
R.A.F.A.	22	14	5	3	130	90	31
Old Xaverians	22	12	4	6	137	83	30
Linnets B.....	22	12	8	2	121	99	26
Oakhill C	22	9	9	4	116	104	22
Post & Echo ..	22	7	12	3	103	117	17
Lucem A	22	6	13	3	96	124	15
Vagabonds A ...	22	3	14	5	75	145	11
Lussac	22	1	19	2	50	170	4
Catholic Metro	22	1	20	1	40	180	3

CENTRAL REGIONAL II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
<i>R.A.F. M'ments</i>	22	19	2	1	172	48	39
Cheshire Lines B	22	17	5	0	139	81	34
Stanley House	22	14	4	4	146	74	32
Peel Hall	22	9	7	6	121	99	24
Florence Oxton	22	10	8	4	115	105	24
Livex B	22	8	8	6	98	122	22
Oakhill D	22	7	10	5	104	116	19
Cheshire Lines C	22	6	9	7	99	121	19
Beauclair A ...	22	8	11	3	90	130	19
Tech Students A	22	5	13	4	86	134	14
Old Xaverians A	22	4	14	4	83	137	12
Deaf Institute ...	22	1	17	4	67	153	6

Last Set was the Decider

AN extremely tense struggle ended not surprisingly in a draw on sets, and it was a three game margin in favour of Bath Street which decided the destiny of the Cup. Bath Street made a grand start and had a 4-1 lead before the Y.M. showed signs of making a serious resistance. The next four sets all went in favour of the Y.M. boys, and it was a truly astonishing change of fortune.

Bath Street however had built up a useful advantage on games in the early stages so that Dick Young knew he had to beat Dean of Bath Street before the final set if his side were to have any chance at all.

The resultant tension of the deciding set was in no way surprising, but it underlined the fact that the closing stages of our various Cup Competitions can provide an excitement which is quite unique, and which quite makes up for any lack of skill by the players.

Frankly this last set provided very little of the arts and crafts of the game, but that was of small importance compared with the result, so every stroke which sent the ball off the table was greeted with cheers or groans depending on the spectators feelings. It was only right that Dean who kept his head much better than Young should prove the winner, and in the end he won fairly comfortably, but indeed it was a most grim encounter.

Aspinall playing his sets early on, laid the foundations of Bath Street's success by winning both his matches, displaying a mastery of his opponents that one would expect from the leader of the Third Division averages, but John Taylor for the Y.M. did just as well and deserves credit for winning the vital ninth set to give his side the lead. Possibly the closest struggle of the evening was between Roberts and Cooke, the former winning on a deuce in the third. At the time it seemed that this reserve might cost Bath Street the match, but the courage of Dean in the final set made up for it, and on the evenings play the North End side deserved their success, even if the margin was desperately small.

Change: Destination Unknown

AT the end of what I think has been a very happy season, as far as any rate, as the majority of us are concerned, there seems to be prevalent a sense of anti-climax, due first to the lack of a season-ending Closed Championship and second to our failure to discover where we are likely to spend next season.

Panto and Bootle Y.M.C.A. are exceptions; they are certainties for third division status, and well they have deserved it.

Alternately pace-making each other, they have both coursed eleven points ahead of the rest of the field and were only just separated in a photo-finish, with honours going to the Post Office boys, Harkness, Duffy, Mason, Slater and Coulter. Incidentally, they will have to find a replacement for Brian Duffy next season.

Youngest Side

The Bootle line up of Jones, Harris, Ferris, Rogerson and Bent—probably the youngest side in the division—console themselves with the knowledge that they were the only unbeaten side and that three of Panto's four lost points made their way to the Y.M.C.A. headquarters.

To the four clubs doomed by re-organisation—Bohemians B, Oakhill B and Victoria Park B and C—we send our best wishes for success in whatever their future sphere may be.

Seldom can a club have made a better recovery than Bohemians.

Twice they seemed doomed for a lowly berth and each time avoided it with ease. Their final burst of 10 points from five games enabled them to finish a comfortable fifth.

It was a surprise to see the popular Oakhill veterans—if they will excuse the word—fourth from bottom and consequently doomed for relegation, re-organisation or not. A remarkable thing this, for a team whose worst defeat all season was 7-3. A pity for them that Bob Platt and Henry Sorsky were unable to reproduce their early season form at the testing time.

At African Oil and Wavertree there is speculation as to whether re-organisation may allow them to remain in the

division. If it should, it is evident that strengthening must take place.

The changes in the Wavertree turnout have been many and varied, but lack of a good opening pair is noticeable. All five of their most recent team—Cohen, Fowler, Paterson, Massey and Good—were capable of performing with credit lower down the team order.

Lofters and Waterloo Park both hope that they may find their way into Division Three. I can visualise Waterloo Park doing well there, especially if Charlie Bray can finally decide who to play at No. 5, but I doubt if the present Lofters team will go far, mainly because they lack good enough backing for Bill Askew and Beryl Waterson, while their reserves, apart from Nan Lamb, seldom shone.

Finally, a brickbat for the one really poor sportsman in the division. May he mend his ways or take up billiards! I still don't feel his attitude excused the behaviour of a home supporter at a club noted for its hospitality. This gentleman saw fit to cavil at an umpire's decision accepted by both players and to accuse the above-mentioned of cheating because he made no demur.

And a personal note. Thanks, secretaries, for your assistance when called on!

Well Done, Beryl and Brian

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Beryl Waterson, of Lofters, for carrying Liverpool's flag to London in the Daily Mirror tournament.

May we offer to her our best wishes and hopes that at the Albert Hall next month she will finally hoist that flag to the top of the pole by winning the women's singles. But whether she does or not, her appearance there will be a crown to a good season.

Congratulations also to young Brian Pardy, of Linnets, for reaching the final rounds of the Evening Chronicle event at Manchester. It is an uncommon thing for a regional player to get so far in such a tournament and augurs well for his future.

OLD DOG FRED HAD HIS DAY

THE Readman Cup Final between 15th Crosby and Balfour A had not only variety in the colour of shirts—see last part Rule 19—but also a variety of movement. This went from the Can Can of Joe Watts to the adagio of Derek Sayers.

In addition, there was Fred Bamford. Never was the old saying "An old dog for a hard road" proved truer than in the last set of the night. Balfour led five sets to four, 12 games to 10, and Bamford had to beat Harris two straight to give Crosby a chance to retain the cup on points.

Bamford's earlier display against Wilcock, to whom he lost 11—21 17—21, did not augur well, but the veteran produced some real vintage stuff to win 21—7, 21—11. It was all there—attack, defence, half volley and every inch of the table used to advantage.

Well played, Fred.

Decisive Attack

Hand won both his sets. Against Harris his attack was too sharp and decisive for his opponent, and the nonchalance with which he hit winners gave the impression of a knock up. Poor Harris was just a retriever of balls from various parts of the hall. He might have tried a bash himself, for he could not have been worse off.

Hand found Smith a much more difficult problem. Smith, mixing his game well, won the first and continued to hold the initiative to 19—15 in the second to look all over a winner. Then he lost it and the game to 19.

That was not all, the third game found Hand leading 11—1 so that Smith had lost all but one of the last 17 points. He put in a late rally but Hand finished up 21—19.

Both teams were forced to play a reserve, but neither Delamere nor Wong let their side down, each winning once. Wong beat Watts in no uncertain manner, while Delamere, as well

as beating Sayer, took a game out off Wilcock.

Even though Wilcock lost the first 23—25 and recovered in the second from 12—19 to 21—19, I feel that Delamere deserved to win the third for his enterprise. Wilcock won 25—23 but played a negative game and it was lack of stamina more than anything else that beat Delamere.

It may seem hard to decry a man who won both his sets, but I cannot help thinking that if Wilcock had used his attack more against Delamere he could have won two straight. What a difference that would have made.

Watts had a poor match. When he went on against Sayer, Crosby were in front for the first time at 4—3 and it was freely anticipated that the set would see it go to 5—3.

This seemed good forecasting when Watts won the first game against an almost static Sayer 21—9. Sayer hit a couple of winners in the next two games and these, combined with his ability to get the ball over the net and on the table, proved good enough to beat a jumpy but very much out-of-touch Watts.

The Smith-Coogan set was, I thought, the best of the night and though Smith won 21—19, 27—25, he would be the first to admit he had all the luck. If ever anybody earned the right to a third game it was Coogan. Whether he would have won it we shall never know but he certainly deserved the chance.

Crosby deserved their win if it was only for their fight back, and nobody can say they had the luck. Balfour A, I feel, have only themselves to blame for defeat. With the exception of Smith and Wong, who showed some enterprise, the rest were very negative.

Balfour were only once behind during the course of the match but instead of going on and firmly grasping the victory that was there for the taking they let it slip.

For the record, Crosby's winning margin of points was 464 to 424.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE "WORLDS"

By J. D. LOUGHREY

BEYOND all question the greatest feature of the 21st holding of the Championships was the presence of the Japanese team for the first time in Europe. During the first week the novelty of their style of play and the sponge bats which became such a menace as used by them, made them such a force that both the Swathyling and Corbillon Cups were in their possession by Saturday night.

By that time however something of the strangeness of their play, had worn off, and some felt too that their energy might have been to a certain degree worn down because of the extremely vigorous style of play which without exception, they all adopt.

Despite this they proceeded to woe down the opposition in the Individual Championships, and if one fell by the wayside then immediately another eliminated a famous name, and the chances of a clean sweep of all the titles became increasingly obvious.

Sido Beaten

The defeat of World Champion, Sido in three straight by Ogimura, and the complete failure of Gizi Gervai (Farkas) to offer any serious resistance to Eguchi, was most significant. If however one person seemed to have the measure of the new tactics it was Andreadis who had won his three singles matches against the Japs with little trouble in the Swaything Cup.

It was a real sensation therefore when Ogimura beat him comfortably in the semi-final, and virtually assured himself of the title. Flisberg gave a sorry exhibition in the Final and was never in the game, although he like the winner used a sponge rubber bat.

Two Japanese girls contested one semi-final, and it was Tanaka who came on to meet the peerless Rozenau in the Final, and here at last came the first clear example of superiority over the new techniques. A wonderful defence, linked with an even better tactical approach, showed the Rumanian girl to be an all-time master, and she gave a really great exhibition, one to delight the student of the studious approach to the game.

Despite several noteworthy successes, the Doubles titles in the end were not captured by any of the invaders from the East. The Womens Doubles event provided England with the only noteworthy success, but there is every cause for rejoicing that four young English girls should have reached the Final.

Though the Rowe twins emerged the winners, the form, of Best and Haydon gave rise to the most enthusiasm. In the semi-final against the Champions Roseanu and Gervai, they were two games down, but then gave an exhibition which must go down in the annals of the game. Their fighting spirit was truly remarkable, and what a sight it was to see Roseanu looking desparately in the direction of her coach for advice! Haydon on this form must have a big future, and could rise to almost any heights.

Good Example

At present her attack comes almost entirely from a perfectly controlled forehand, but she had the sense to wait patiently when the ball came on the other wing, until the right opportunity came to hit, a facet of her play which many of our own youngsters would do well to imitate.

In the final Anne was still playing beautifully but with Kathie Best a little below her top form, the Rowe twins were able to win 3-1. It must be said that the twins when playing a Jap pair in the other semi-final, for the first two games they gave the finest exhibition by a doubles pair that I can ever hope to see, they were quite superb.

Everyone was pleased to see Victor Barna reaching a Final again, this time the Mens Doubles, with Hagnenauer, and they really caused a sensation when removing the Bergmann-Leach combination on the way. In the Final however Harangozo with Dolinar, two massive men with appropriately mighty hitting powers, gave them little chance of success, and it was sad to see Barna in such a match, and it was sad that this is his last "Worlds."

A word must be said about the sad failure of our own players. Leach, Simons, Bergmann and the other

members of the Swaythling team who did very little to justify our hopes. Bergmann did reach the semi-final of the Mens Singles but then gave a sorry display against Flisberg, a player he surely should have been able to beat. The girls did better but no one reached the semi-finals, their triumphs were reserved for the Doubles.

There were novel features in abundance, but "incidents" fortunately very few indeed. In some quarters there was strong feeling against the sponge bat, but to my mind, the novelty of it and the way the Japanese made use of it provided a much needed shot in the arm for the game. It certainly seemed to almost eliminate the time limit match which is usually such a feature of important Championships, which must be all to the good of the game.

It might be as well to point out that all the Japs were penholders, not all of them used the new bat, and it was their all out attack which was as much responsible for the chaos they caused as anything else.

One player had half of the table removed in the middle of her match, and followed this up by complaining that the net gauge was inaccurate, but that was almost the only occasion when any disagreement was obvious.

An Australian who gripped his bat like a table mat, not using the handle at all, was another strange sight, and the Indian girl playing in traditional costume, with her pigtail "tethered" to her waist is something we do not often see.

My general impression of the play was that attack was more to the fore than I had expected, and pushing and time wasting tactics occurred but rarely.

Bergmann was one of the few who seemed to play with his eye on the clock. Of the top players it was interesting to note how some of them never seemed to get the hang of Japanese all out attack, and seemed to have little prospect of overcoming them.

The other group of which Roseanu, and Andreadis up to the semi-final, were the shining examples tackled the problem astutely and always seemed to be in fairly sure control of the situation.

My feeling is that the novelty of their methods counted for a lot to the

Japanese, as the style has obvious weaknesses, but at the same time, the extreme efficiency with which they exploited it will always give them a good chance of success in World class table tennis.

Fiendish Service

Another point in their favour is that several of them possess a truly fiendish service which caused the very best to make very poor efforts to return the ball. Their own characteristics, soft cries when a point was won, and again when encouraging each other in Doubles play, and their quick-silver movements and enthusiasm, made them quite fascinating to watch, their performances at Wembley will long be remembered.

Our lone representative from Liverpool, Don Foulis, playing in the Jubilee Cup for players who competed upwards of 25 years ago, won through a round or two, and showed form suggesting that the Second Division is a good practice ground for World titles, or he has been having some serious training on the quiet.

Bill Stamp in charge of catering, aided by Nan, found time to see some of the evening matches, and like the rest of us felt that this was a most wonderful occasion to be remembered by all of us fortunate enough to be present, for many years to come, providing an inspiration to improve the standards of our own League, as well as in the country generally.

Don Foulis at Wembley

DON Foulis was the solo Liverpool player to compete in the World's Championships at Wembley. He took part in the Jubilee Cup for veterans and after receiving a bye in the first round, passed through to the third by beating J. Daminbaryi (Sweden), only to meet defeat at the hands of the French international, M. Haganaur.

A quick impression which Don had of the Japanese players, who proved the sensation of the championships, was that the penholder grip which they use is no real advantage and that it is a great pity they did not learn the game with the open grip. In Don's opinion they would be even more formidable.

Vital Set Went To Rafter's

By MARGARET LINDNER

ON the season's records Rafter's 6-4 victory over Lofters was by no means a foregone conclusion, and they are to be congratulated on overcoming such stiff opposition to make it the fifth time for their name to go on the cup.

I was rather surprised that Nan Lamb, like Bibby's, threw away the advantage of winning the toss by electing to be the home team which, to my mind, contributed in some measure to their defeat.

Rafter's were soon one up when B. Waterson went down against Pinkie Rumjahn's brilliant blitz 11 and 19, although she fought well in the second game to reduce a 12-18 deficit.

J. Lloyd levelled the score with an easy win over A. Short 10 and 6, and M. Griffiths played well against K. Rumjahn before losing -11, 17, -9. It was a pity for Lofters she was unable to keep her standard of the second game, but W. Finnetty accounted for R. McMullen 9 and 7 to make the two all.

Effort Foiled

N. Lamb made a great effort against L. Rumjahn to gain the lead.

She succeeded in forcing Pinkie to make mistakes and stemmed her attack to win the first to 18, but Pinkie's greater experience and variety of strokes gave Rafter's the lead when she won the next two games 11 and 10.

Lofters drew level again as Beryl's defence was too steady for J. Brennand and won 18 and 11. It appeared as if M. Griffiths had outplayed herself against Kay when she lost to R. McMullen, who did her share by winning 13 and 16 in the next set.

With the score 4-3 in Rafter's favour, J. Brennand must have had some qualms when called upon to play J. Lloyd in the next crucial set. I imagine by this time Rafter's realised they needed a decisive win as a draw was likely to be in Lofters' favour.

Joyce attacked brilliantly to win the first game 13, but was unable to cope with Joan's changed tactics in the next which she lost to 7. Having lost her nervousness Joan's heavy chop and well angled attacking shots brought her deserved success in the third 21-15, and undoubtedly gave her captain added confidence to clinch victory in the final set.

No Runaway Cup Victory

By RENE STURGEON

AS was anticipated we have to congratulate Cheshire Lines A on becoming the new holders of the Hyde Cup, but the biggest surprise of their success over Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B in the final was that the score was 6-4 and not the 10-0 so many people expected.

Even the Y.M.C.A. players had hoped for little better but it must be said for them that they did not allow the prospect of a "hiding" effect their play and it was due to the grand fight that they put up that the result was much more even.

Indeed, Cheshire Lines was "quaky" until they reached 5-3. Then the cup was "in the bag" for they had won sufficient games to ensure their success even if a draw on sets was forced—and that was not impossible.

Cheshire Lines went into a quick 2-0 lead although Burge just managed to win the initial set in straight games by beating Jones 26-24 in the second. Then Des Loughrey called on Grimes to play against himself and by completely baffling him in both games chalked up one for the Y.M.

Palmer Shaky

Cheshire Lines went further ahead when Hughes beat Brownlow by clever positional play and a powerful cross-the-table drive, but a shaky Palmer who after winning the first game against Richmond, went to pieces in the third and allowed Y.M. to keep well in the game.

The second half opened with Burge winning again, this time over Bibby, whose lack of patience was his own undoing, but the next saw Palmer, still playing erratically, lose to a steady Jones to make the match 4-3.

When Grayson put himself on against Brownlow he just about clinched matters, for his victory was hardly ever in doubt. Still Y.M.C.A. refused to give up and when Des Loughrey conquered Owen Hughes' service he became the master in a real tussle and made the score 5-4.

A much more confident Grimes took the last set against Richmond and so avoided any calculation of games and points, and ended an evening which had produced much exciting and enjoyable table tennis.

Championship Won By Two Sets

CONGRATULATIONS to Bohemians and Waterloo Park on winning the championship of their respective divisions for the first time.

Bohemians pipped Lofters by two sets only, and kept up a consistent record although they were without S. Farrell for several matches at a time when they also lost D. Mezey. They were well served by reserves from their second team and were fortunate to sign M. Willcock, who played in the last three or four matches and helped them to secure victory over Rafters 6-4 in a vital match.

Hard luck Lofters, who suffered only one defeat in league matches and so narrowly missed off a double. They dropped valuable points in drawn matches early in the season, and will no doubt make sure they are not caught napping at the start of next season.

Waterloo Park maintained their unbeaten record and won with a clear lead of six points from Osterley, who are also to be congratulated on earning promotion. They put paid to Beauclair's hopes when they beat them 6-4 at home.

On Their Toes

Osterley deserved to win as they are the better side on the evening and were on their toes all through the match. Beauclair, conscious of being a point behind, having drawn with Wavertree the previous week, were nervous and erratic.

R. Trampnow raised the morale of her side by stemming J. Roberts' attack to win 19, -19, 14, and also accounted for J. Tippets 13, 11. Joyce also lost to P. Lewis 15 and 18.

Another highlight set was between W. Harris and J. Roberts which Julie won 20, -15, 16, to avenge D. Alcock's defeat 12, 18, Doreen also lost to M. O'Donnell.

Osterley's reserve player, D. Frederickson, surpassed herself in attacking to beat M. Patterson and before losing to E. Cubley 11, -10, -16. Betty also had a tough game before beating M. O'Donnell -9, 19, 17. M. Patterson scored the other set for Beauclair by beating P. Lewis 19, 19.

Although Wavertree are several points behind they have made steady

progress again this season. They are somewhat unlucky in that they seem to lose one or two of their leading players each season. They ended the season by taking a point from Osterley and should give even a better account of themselves next season. Their star player, J. Jones, only dropped five sets all season and was ably backed by their captain, J. Fowler. P. Adams is also making good strides.

Brenka are a little unlucky to have survived only one season in the first division. It might have been a different tale had J. Harley played in more matches. They beat C.L.C. 6-4 when D. Wilson accounted for A. Keightley and M. Hall, against whom she played one of her best games this season.

J. Harley wore down A. Keightley to win 18, -18, 9, although Aileen won the second after being 8-16 down. E. Cantwell tried everything but could not shake A. Green, but did her share by beating M. Hall. F. Murray lost both her sets against R. Garner and E. Hewitt. Having lost 4 and 5 to M. Green, E. Finniss rose to the occasion to clinch victory by beating a rather nervous E. Hewitt 11, -16, 17.

Undeterred by Defeats

Outstanding player for Dunlop's has been M. Hoey, who has more or less kept the side together, and she ended a good season by reaching the semi-finals of the Foulis Cup when she lost to K. Rumjahn.

Catholic Metro have found the odds very much against them again this season, but it is good to hear that continuous defeat does not stop them from enjoying their matches.

Worthy of record is Bibby's great fight before letting go of the Bartholomew Cup in their semi-final match against Rafters to whom they lost 4-6. K. Rumjahn's greater experience as captain was a feature of the match, particularly after Bibby's threw away the toss by electing to be the home side.

Another outstanding feature was the marked improvement in L. Rimmer's game, although she lost to L. Rumjahn, who was at her best, after a close set -18, 19, -16. Her 16, 12 victory over J. Brennand is an indication of how well she was playing.

MANY KEEN BATTLES

THE South Region tournament was a great success. The total entries were well up on last year, and many good games were seen, especially in some of the preliminary rounds.

Of these I highlight the Dick Burge—Ian Mackie battle. After winning the first game 23—21, Burge led 15—4 in the second, but young Mackie pulled himself together and after some stirring rallies pulled up to 18—19 before Burge got the final two points.

In the semi-finals Burge easily beat G. Elliott (Linnets), and J. Grayson (C.L.C.) beat clubmate C. Grimes after a hard set, and so set the stage for the best final the tournament has yet seen.

Grayson, at his very best, hit magnificently and some of Burge's retrieving was stupendous. After 12—all in the third game, Grayson earned a slight lead which he kept to win at 21—18.

In the men's doubles, Grayson and G. Kettle retained their title by defeating R. Palmer and C. Grimes (C.L.C.).

Comfortable Win

Paddy Abbott (Linnets) sustained a severe ankle injury, so by consent of all the three finals in which she was due to appear were postponed. When they were played Joyce Jones (Wavertree) beat her fairly comfortable in the women's singles.

The two other finals were all Linnets, and in these Ian Mackie and P. Abbott beat B. Pardy and B. M. Topping in the mixed, although Pardy assisted the winners by cracking two sitters into the net at 15—all in the third.

Myra Murphy and Benson won the women's doubles from A. Brown and P. J. Abbott in a three-game set in which "order of play" played a major part.

Our novelty event, the old boys' singles, ended in victory for F. A. Thomas (Linnets), who beat Ted Mandaluff (Liverpool Y.M.) in the final, having previously beaten P. Short (Rafters) and K. Boden (Lucem). A worthy winner.

To round off the tournament came the South Region dance at Cheshire Lines—a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Owen Hughes deserves full marks, for as M.C. he was mainly responsible for the Dance going with a swing. Tournament prizes were presented at the dance by Mr. Jack Pattison, one of the League Vice-Presidents.

To the following go my hearty thanks—Jack Grayson and the Cheshire Lines committee and members, for the use of their hall and tables and much friendly help; to Stan Wilkinson and the Trustees of Aigburth Meths, for the loan of two tables; "Kit" for cups of tea at all odd times; all the ladies who sold raffle tickets; and Jimmy Green, the tournament referee.

Congratulations to Cheshire Lines A for bringing the Hyde Cup to the South, for the first time in so many years. As I write this the Forrest Cup is not yet decided, but we all ardently hope that this will keep the Hyde Cup company at Cheshire Lines.

The blackest spot on this season has been the number of times players have ambled in at about nine o'clock, and teams have played short. The total number of offences in these two directions is nothing less than disgraceful. I strongly urge all captains, next season, to claim all sets from absences at 8 p.m.

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Tournament Brought Surprises

IN this, the last issue of the current season, I have both good news and not so good news to give.

The good news is that the North's representative side have won the Macclesfield Medals but how we have had to struggle for them. The third and final inter-regional match against the Central resulted in a draw which gave the North five points out of six.

Just how much we had to struggle may be gauged from the fact that against the Central we were 4-1 down at one time and the position looked hopeless. But the North players rallied and with two sets from J. Owen and one each from J. Lovelady, L. Cairns and W. Tobin, we finally achieved our aim. It is quite safe to say, however, that the Central were by far the toughest side that we have had to do battle with in this competition.

Forrest Cup Defeat

And now to our not-so-good news. Last month I mentioned that Bootle Y.M.C.A. appeared to be in a fairly safe position at the top of Division 1. Well, they held on to that position and as region leaders they had to meet the top team from the South in the semi-final of the Forrest Cup. Unfortunately for the Y.M. and the North, they were beaten 7-3 by Cheshire Lines A. Tough luck, boys, but congratulations on finishing the season in the leading position.

We held our North Region tournament at the English Electric during the last week of the season, and what a hectic two nights we had, trying to get through the heavy programme. The entrants for the men's singles alone numbered 71. Thanks to the assistance of players and non-players, however, we managed to get through to the semi-finals of most events.

Tournaments usually bring surprises and this one was no exception. J.

Donnelly (Everton Y.M.C.A.) beat J. R. Owen (Maghull, an inter-regional player) in the first round, and K. Readitt, who appears to have played regularly for Waterloo Park's fourth team in our second division, defeated P. Turtle (Everton Y.M.C.A.), another inter-regional player. But it was good to see the lesser lights fight their way through.

Les Cairns and Joe Lovelady battled their way to the semi-final, along with Len Kilshaw (Waterloo Dock) and Don Hunter (Bootle Y.M.C.A.).

In the women's singles we had an entry of 20 and E. Scott (Waterloo Park), J. Lloyd (Bath Street and Littlewoods), R. Royle (Anfield) and P. Harbour (Littlewoods) reached the semi-finals. Enid Scott did well to beat Dorothy Greensmith and Joyce Lloyd to beat Olga Eagle, as both these players are well known in the Women's First Division and are recognised as stiff opposition.

The women's doubles finalists were R. Royle, O. Eagle, D. Greensmith and M. Griffiths, which ensured that Anfield was in the final picture as three of the four are from that club. Mai Griffiths plays for Lofters and was the only representative from that club in the finals.

In the restricted singles H. Moores (Littlewoods), J. Ray (Litherland), M. Smith (Waterloo Park) and E. McKinnell (Bootle Y.M.C.A.) fought their way to the semi-finals.

I cannot close this article without thanking everyone who, by their help, made the tournament a success. And a special vote of thanks to Jack Lambert and his co-officials for the use of English Electric for the earlier rounds; to Reg Gray for the use of Anfield clubroom, for the games we were unable to get through at the former, and to Mr. Watson for the use of Bootle Y.M.C.A. for the finals.

Youth Dominated Tourney

WITH the reorganisation of the league next season it is impossible to know who will remain in the region.

Anfield C have won promotion but cannot go in the fourth division under the new ruling, and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B, who finished second, are in the same position. So we come to Panto A and R.A.F.A., both of whom would be eligible under the rule.

At the other end Lussac and Catholic Metro are due for relegation but there will be no second division. Lussac have already resigned but I am hoping to see Catholic Metro still with us next season.

Gallant Losers

I expected them to do better this season, with their own premises and the opportunity to practice. Though suffering defeat after defeat they carried on gallantly and are a pleasant side to play against. May they enjoy better luck next season.

In the second division R.A.F. Movements ran away with the second division as was expected, followed by Cheshire Lines B and Stanley House, who did well to finish in third place in this their first season. They certainly staggered a few teams with their penholder grip.

At the bottom of the table we find Deaf Institute and Old Xaverians A. It seems unfortunate for the latter to have acquired 14 points and yet finish next to bottom.

The entries for our regional tournament were fairly good although I expected the number for the singles to be higher. We had 46 entries from one division last season and only 60 from two divisions this year.

There were five clubs who failed to enter a player. Some clubs feel that because they are in the second division they do not stand a chance against first division players, but a tournament is an individual event and some first division players are weaker individually than those of the second division.

This was proved by the men's singles final when the runner-up was a young second division player, John Stoddart

(Anfield C) had to play extremely hard to beat Eddie Moran (Cheshire Lines C).

It was good to see the youngsters coming to the fore in the final stages—Stoddart, aged 16; Moran, aged 17; and Maher (semi-finalist), aged 18. Handley, the other semi-finalist must have felt like a grandfather.

Youth also predominated in the women's singles. Miss Julie Roberts (Beauchair), the winner, is aged 18 and is another player to achieve success in her season. She played well to beat the much more experienced Miss Aileen Keightley (Cheshire Lines). The latter failed to get into her stride and Julie was content to defend and let Aileen make the mistakes.

The doubles final started keenly and one felt in the early stages it could go either way. Handley and Kelly (Old Xaverians), however, appeared to tire and were hardly in the picture in the third game against Rea and Stoddart (Anfield).

May I take this opportunity of thanking Jack McKim, our referee, and Messrs. Callaghan, Handley, Kelly, Sturgees and Ward for their much appreciated assistance.

Exciting Match

For our match against the North at Lofters I played the four semi-finalists, plus Wildblood (R.A.F. Movements) and what an exciting match it was. The first four sets went to three games and seven out of the twelve were decided on a deuce.

Wildblood at No. 1 did not strike his old form and although he lost both his sets, he did so narrowly.

John Stoddart, No. 2, was on top form and won both his sets, while Derek Maher, Eric Handley and Eddie Moran each won one and lost one.

At the halfway margin we held a 4-1 lead but the North were not beaten, and before we realised it we were 5-4 down. Then Handley came to our rescue. Defeat after a 4-1 lead would have been a bitter pill, while the draw was a very fair result.

LADIES' STOLE THE SHOW

OUR tournament was held as arranged at Cadwa on March 26th. A prompt start was effected and in spite of using one table less than last year we missed our schedule by about six minutes due to the men's final being a prolonged affair.

To give the Ladies due preference, the ultimate winner was Miss Joyce Lloyd (Liverpool Police), who beat Miss M. Wilcock (Osterley) in a very good final, 21-18, 16-21, 21-9.

This event was as usual a rather curtailed affair as we only had the usual (large!) entry of twelve, but we can say we at least held our own as this number also entered the 1952-3. This final, to my mind, was well away the better of the two and produced some very fine attacking rallies from both players.

Long Final

Our men, 34 in number, against 39 last year, finally reduced themselves to Messrs. Nelson, McKechnie, Fenna and Webster, as the semi-finalists.

Young McKechnie, of Balfour, finally gave best in three games to G. Nelson (Police), and R. Webster (Balfour) rather easily accounted for his opponent in two straight sets.

The final saw both contestants waiting for the right ball to hit, but whether the choice was at fault or they both carefully avoided the odd bad return is a debatable question for it finally resolved itself into three games, all long in time rather than points, and Nelson finally won from Webster, 21-17, 18-21, 21-16.

For this night's table tennis we must gratefully thank the secretary of Cadwa for again permitting us to use their premises and equipment.

The final League tables appear elsewhere in this issue and except for an odd observation further comment is unnecessary. The final winners were the Vagabonds, as most of us expected when our last issue appeared.

In view of the position earlier in the season, I feel Police, who were very favourably placed, have only themselves to blame for being overhauled by the Vagabonds. I must say that in view of last season's efforts by Vagabonds, when they took three points from 1952-3 champions—Victoria Park—the consistency of their play has been proved by this season's performance.

Going Home

I must mention the enthusiasm of W. Savage, to whom I am sure they owe a lot for their final triumph, and it must be a pleasing end of season to him immediately before his return to Australia and his discontinuance of play in the Liverpool League. May I wish him a pleasant journey home and, if it is available, good table tennis on the other half of the world.

How our Region will be built up next season is subject to the re-organisation suggestions due for discussion at our A.G.M. I feel sure that we may lose a few familiar faces and gain new ones if this takes place. Nevertheless, I am confident we should still get our table tennis under what, I think, is the more pleasant atmosphere as against the earnestness of higher divisions.

Finally I must express regret that this season I have not been able to follow our competition as closely as I would have wished, but unfortunately for half the season I have not been in the best of health.

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LOWER STANDARD OF PLAY

IT was anticipated that all league games would have been played by the time this magazine was printed but of the four games still outstanding last month only two have been played.

The ladies completed their fixtures when they met Bury away and lost 7-3, Miss Mansell winning two sets and Miss J. Brennan, who was making her debut, winning one. The two sides were fairly evenly matched and a close game resulted.

The Liverpool first team lost at Stockport 7-3 but were unfortunate in having to make two late changes, the team travelling being W. Pierce, P. U. Rumjahn and N. R. Jones.

The first half of the match was very even and after six sets had been played the teams were level at three all, but Stockport finished the stronger and won the remaining four sets to gain a comfortable victory.

The only outstanding fixture for the first team is Nelson away, but as they have so far played only one home game and there is a certain amount of difficulty in arranging the outstanding game, there is a possibility that they will have to forfeit the points.

Deciding Match

Liverpool A have one game remaining but this is an important one against Southport and will decide which of the two teams will gain promotion to the first division.

Reviewing the past season it is my opinion that with a few exceptions the standard of play in Division 1 is lower than it has been since the war. This I think, is due to the fact that some of the older players are no longer playing in the Lancashire League and a number of the good younger players are doing their National Service, and there are not sufficient young players of promise to take their place.

I think the A team have done very well to maintain a high position in the Second Division and it is well within their power to gain promotion. V. Chesham, N. R. Jones and A. C. Taylor have all maintained a good standard throughout the season and are to a large measure responsible for the healthy position of the team.

The position regarding the ladies' team is not so good, for they finished

next to bottom, and I would suggest with regard to next season, our ladies need to get down to some hard practice during the summer months to add more bite to their game.

Division 1

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Manchester	9	8	0	1	62	28	17
Stockport	10	6	3	1	63	37	13
Liverpool	9	2	3	4	40	50	8
Chester	9	3	5	1	40	50	7
Bolton	9	1	6	2	34	56	4
Nelson	6	1	4	1	21	39	3

Division II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Southport	9	6	1	2	61	29	14
Liverpool A	9	5	0	4	58	32	14
Runcorn	10	4	3	3	52	48	11
Macclesfield	9	3	4	2	40	50	8
Wirral	10	1	4	5	42	58	7
St. Helens	9	0	7	2	26	64	2

Women's Division 1

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Manchester	8	7	1	0	61	19	14
Bury	8	5	3	0	44	36	10
Blackpool	8	4	3	1	40	40	9
Liverpool	8	3	4	1	39	41	7
Burnley	8	0	8	0	16	64	0

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