

DECEMBER, 1954

DD



Vol. V. No. 2.

PRICE 6⁰.

TABLE
TENNIS
DIGEST

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Please reserve me seat(s) on the special train to attend the English Open Championships at Wembley on Saturday, April 2nd, 1955. Tickets 27/6 each.

Train leaves Lime Street 11.0 a.m., returning from Euston at 1.0 a.m., April 3rd.

Please reserve me a party rate ticket for the Finals at the Empire Pool, Wembley (state number and price).

	£	s.	d.
21/- for 17/6			
15/- for 12/6			
10/6 for 8/6			
8/6 for 6/6			
Total			

Party rate tickets will NOT be available after January 4th, 1955

Name

Address

Club.....

To be returned to your Club Secretary with deposit of 10/- for each reservation, on or before January 4th, 1955.

Friends desiring to spend the day in London, but not wishing to attend the Finals can be accommodated at 27/6 per head.

To Club Secretaries: This form should be forwarded to W. STAMP, 3 Farndale Close, Liverpool 18, with the deposit.

Table Tennis Digest

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

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

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Joint Editors: J. D. Pattison and J. D. Loughrey
W. Stamp A. Montgomery J. H. C. Hughes

Vol. V

December, 1954.

No. 2

COMMENT

TWO recent events when taken in conjunction, seem to offer as clear a directive to those interested in the League's welfare as anything else in the past few seasons. On the one hand we had dismal but inevitable defeats by Manchester in both the Wilmott and Rose Bowl tournaments. In the former case Liverpool must have been represented by one of the oldest trios ever to appear for the League.

On the other hand, we had the appearance of a youngster in the finals of the Merseyside Junior Singles, when, with a little more experience, he might well have triumphed. The player concerned has been a regular member of the new Nomads side this season, benefitting from the advice of the three coaches, Messrs. Peter Rumjahn, Bamford and Foulis, besides gaining playing experience against top-class players.

When we realise that this is the first occasion since the war that a junior has appeared in the Merseyside finals, it suggests very strongly that this new venture has thus early achieved a noteworthy success.

We would not detract one iota from Peter Turtle's enthusiasm, or from the encouragement which his own club, Everton Y.M., has given, but it provides an excellent argument in favour of a team in the top section giving opportunities to the youth of the League.

Though the side is still in its infancy, we are certain that given the time, it will not be long before other youngsters achieve a like success, for the double advantage of coaching and experience-gaining, which members of this side enjoy, is surely the best possible way to rise to the top of the tree.

It seems certain that any plans to place Liverpool on the map once more, in the playing sense, must start at the very bottom, and in the ordinary course of events, it will be some time yet before this new influence will make itself felt. Nevertheless, a quick encouragement such as this, suggests we are on the right lines, and it may not be too long before even greater triumphs are achieved.

All that we ask from the youth of the League is enthusiasm for the game and a willingness to learn, something which is not, as might be thought, always present. The net has been thrown wide, and if there are any young players outside the scheme, then the blame must lie on the shoulders of secretaries who have not nominated names to the committee concerned.

In the successful running of this new side, we are certain lies one very important answer to the never-ending series of humiliating defeats which we have suffered from Manchester in recent years.

LET'S MAKE UP A PARTY FOR ENGLISH OPEN

By W. STAMP.

THE report on the play in the Mersey-side Open will be found elsewhere in this issue, and I would just point out that the Committee were fully justified in their decision not to transfer the finals to the Philharmonic or the Stadium, as the number of spectators paying for admission was 149, the remainder (and there were nearly 400 present) were competitors who were admitted free on their players ticket.

The local entries make interesting reading, which I give without comment. We have 53 clubs, 32 of which did not have a single entry whilst three had only one entry.

The Flintshire Open is being staged at Rhyl on Saturday, January 8, 1955, and a coach will be booked provided there are sufficient applications. Fare 10/-. We would leave St. John's Lane at 9 a.m. and applications should be made to me, accompanied by a 5/- deposit.

Great Opportunity

The biggest event in the table tennis calendar is the English Open, the finals of which will be staged at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on Saturday, April 2, 1955. We had a special train from Liverpool in 1936 and apart from a special coach of 32 three years ago, we have done nothing.

The 1955 World Championships are to be held in Holland almost following the English, so the opportunity will arise for many of the world's leading players to come to our championships on their way to Holland. Included in the invitations are China, France, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, U.S.A., Rumania, Sweden, Yugoslavia, and the U.S.S.R., so that this will be a golden opportunity to see

all the present-day stars, and I feel that many of our members would like to take advantage of this chance.

Provided there are a minimum of 200 I can organise a special train leaving Liverpool at 11 a.m., returning from Euston at 1 a.m. A stop will be made at Wembley should anyone wish to attend the afternoon session, the remainder can travel on to London for three or four hours' sightseeing before travelling out to Wembley by tube in the evening.

The train fare would be 27/6 plus the cost of admission to the Stadium according to the price you wish to pay and for which there are special party rates viz. :—21/- for 17/6; 15/- for 12/6; 10/6 for 8/6; and 8/6 for 6/6.

I am prepared to issue subscription cards to club secretaries for those desiring to pay weekly and the amounts so collected could be paid to the league each month. Spread over the period January to March this would mean approximately 3/6 per week. I enclose herewith a reservation form (which does not preclude from travelling friends who only wish to spend the day in London) for you to hand to your secretary.

April seems a long way off, but the necessary arrangements have to be made well ahead, so I suggest you call a meeting of your members to discuss this matter. Reservations will be made for club members to be together, both on the train and at Wembley.

Maybe we will not get enough for a special train, but only enough for a coach. There may only be sufficient to travel down in somebody's car, and it might end by someone going to London on their 'bike'—but I can at least try.

Four Times a Man Short

HAVE you ever heard of Wolverhampton Wanderers turning out for a Football League First Division match a player short? Well, the leading team in this division has done so on four consecutive occasions.

It is discourteous to the opposing team and deprives two people of a second set, besides making a mockery of the captain's choice of "next on table."

However, the loss of two sets has not been the cause of Crosby losing any points, as the "clever" switching of order has overcome their forebodings. Their regrouping to replace Pendlebury will be interesting.

Another surprise to outsiders must be the regrouping of Tony Smith to the Balfour A team, although having the same record as his replacement, H. Wilcock. He has since confounded his critics by winning two sets v Anfield A and accounting for brother Ted and myself v Rafter's, giving Ted only his second reverse this season. And it will probably make the task of Crosby and Rafter's easier.

Pendlebury of Crosby is the only 100 per cent. player in the division, but he has only played eight sets. Next in the averages are W. Harris (Balfour) with 93.75 per cent., W. Pierce (Linnets) 91 per cent. and E. J. Rumjahn 88 per cent.

In the Readman Cup Linnets went out to Crosby in the preliminary round; Rafter's A lost to Anfield 3-7 and Anfield A lost to Victoria Park 2-8 after a replay. The other successful sides meet teams from other divisions, except Oakhill and Livex who clash in the second round.

In the Stamp Cup, Anfield, Balfour, Liverpool Y.M.C.A., Rafter's, Linnets and Crosby got through to the second round to meet lower division opponents. But as I write I learn that the Y.M.C.A. have gone the way of Oakhill, who lost to Bohemians, the second division team, in the first round.

One of the most heartening pieces of news we've had is Nomads' first victory, 7-3 over Anfield A, without Arthur Taylor. M. Truman and Anderson each won two sets, and Rogerson, Cairns and Crolley (one each) were Nomads' winners.

EASY VICTORIES A RARITY

WITH a third of the season gone the strength of the division is separating slowly into two parts.

It looks as though the struggle to avoid "going down" is going to be at least as tense as the battle for inclusion in the First Division next autumn. Competition remains very keen and, I am pleased to record, overwhelming victories for any team are rarities indeed. In more than a few matches the result has depended on one or two players winning at deuce in the third.

From a playing point of view, the Litherland team has not hit the headlines, nor can I see them doing so this season, though in E. Anderson I believe they have a player young enough as well as potentially capable enough of making a name for himself before April. He is still a bit slow starting, or was when I saw him in action, but confidence will come with experience.

Allow me to congratulate the club itself on their compact though adequate,

pleasantly heated, new headquarters. It's a bit difficult to find the clubroom from the main road, but worth the effort when you get there. Cold playing quarters do detract from otherwise good conditions, and I have a lot of players behind me when I say that one can forgive a lot to be reasonably warm.

A word on the Stamp Cup—Bohemians, by the narrowest of victories over First Division opposition in Oakhill, followed by a similar win against Y.M.C.A. have advanced to Round 3. Best wishes for further success in this competition to D. Bruce, R. Keddie and Ken Jones.

Bohs' league team, including, of course, these three, but apparently minus now the services of R. McManus, seems quite capable of overhauling Bootle Y.M.C.A. The latter dropped another valuable point (away) to Bath Street, who played a reserve for their consistent, and persistent No. 2, Aspinall.

Electricians are Welding

VISITING English Electric, possible relegation candidates, it was an agreeable surprise to find the makings of a solid team which is beginning to weld itself together and which is capable of giving a good account of itself.

Two "New Boys," Sanderson and Fullalone, play good open-style games and look capable of producing better results. Smitton, Longstaffe and Lambert, of the "Old Brigade," are wearing well and a rise in the table is indicated.

At the East Lancashire Road headquarters, the playing area has been switched to the canteen concert room. We had the accompaniment of "Cinderella" for our match, but the home boys, feeling no doubt a little embarrassed, appeared to be put out of their stride more than the visitors.

In fairness to English Electric it should be pointed out that this is not usual and as Christmas is drawing near it will not worry many, if any, future visitors.

At the top of the table it is Bohemians all the way. Bootle have twice dropped away points to mid-table opposition and although very much in the promotion hunt, their performances are not as consistent as Bohs.

Panto, chief challengers, have lost each time either their regular No. 1 or No. 2 have been missing. Their chances would appear to rest with their ability to field a full team.

Lofters are playing well enough to keep in the top flight, and with the general improvement in the tail-enders, a gradual evening-up process is taking place.

I understand that late visitors to Cheshire Lines may find their sets claimed. This is strictly in accordance with the rules. The South End club is a long way off, so make sure you allow sufficient time to reach their H.Q. Incidentally, this applies both ways. The Cheshire Liners must be sure they arrive at their away games in time. They are making Division 3 starting-time conscious.

Fourth Division

by Jim Green

HOPES UNDAUNTED BY DEFEAT

IT has now become obvious that only three teams have any real promotion hopes—Beauclair, Maghull, and Linnets A. I know that Linnets have been beaten by Littlewoods, but on that evening they had a weak team out, owing to Ted Morris having hurt his ankle and Stan Wooding being in the club's first team. But they are signing some new players and still cherish hopes. Even so, the other two are the only other possibilities.

I have not yet heard from one or two clubs, and have not been able to visit some of them, including Maghull, but from what I hear they are improving rapidly. Secretary Owen and young Tobin are a strong 1 and 2, each having won 12 of their 14 league sets to date. The rest of the team are steady down with improved results.

Incidentally, as I write, only Joe Lovelady (Linnets) has still got his 100 per cent. record in league matches. Owen and Tobin have 85 per cent. and L. Carter (Beauclair) has 93 per cent. All others are well below this figure.

We still have certain interests in cup-ties, but they will have been played by the time you read this, so all we can do is to hope for representation in the next rounds. We are certain of at least one team since Litherland A are hosts to Beauclair, which ensures that one must go on.

Where did our players hibernate during the Merseyside? I was disappointed at the poor entry from this division. They could have been counted on one hand, which is a pretty poor show. I am driven to the conclusion that the vast majority of you are not interested in improving your standard, which to me seems futile in view of the undoubted low standard at present.

One of the closest of our cup wins was that in which Panto beat Waterloo Park by 27 games to 23 after two drawn games, thus beating a Third Division team. I do not think they can survive the next round against Balfour A, but I wish them all luck.

Graveyard of Many Hopes

HERE we are a third of the way through the season and still many doubts confronting us.

However, it appears that Balfour B are as strong as any in the division and have a great chance of carrying yet another honour to their headquarters in Smith-down Road. Perhaps it is just a coincidence that they are opposite the cemetery, but I am sure that Balfour Institute itself is the graveyard of many hopes and aspirations.

There is only one 100 per cent. player in the division now and again Balfour claim the distinction in the person of L. Mulholland.

It was disappointing to see so few Division 5 players in the Merseyside, but gratifying to find quite a few among the spectators at the prelims and also at the finals.

Balfour C got themselves mixed up in a most unusual cup-tie with the Police. Both teams were one short and as these two should have played one another, the event was declared void and a victory for the Police was registered by the unusual score of 5-4.

A word of warning. A few teams in the league have been playing short and have been fined. See to it that Division 5 is as free from this sort of thing as possible.

Victoria Park C have at last broken their "duck" while their B team have suffered their first defeat.

A word of praise to Denis O'Dwyer of Rafters, who gained his side's only victory against Oakhill first team by defeating the experienced Eric Wall. This is O'Dwyer's first season in table tennis.

It is good to see Jimmy Rea back in Oakhill B's line-up. He is too good a player to be missing from the team sheet.

Anfield B and C have between them already called upon eighteen players. Perhaps if they can settle down a little, it may help to improve their playing records.

USEFUL BLEND AT ANFIELD

PRIDE of place this month must go to P. Turtle, of Everton Y.M.C.A., for his excellent performance in being the League's first post-war junior to reach the final of the Merseyside Junior Singles—a sad but true state of affairs. On behalf of the division I say well done Pete and may your successes continue.

Anfield D, our last minute arrivals, appear to have settled on a blend of youth and experience. The youth and potentialities of Butterworth, Overend and "Lofty" Goldson should prove a "great asset to "chaperone" Reg. Gray and his club, Malley and Cann make up the experience—for the old timers benefit this is Edie Malley's brother, Harry. This combination has broken the team's duck.

Another team which will no doubt be happier now that its selection committee is giving it a settled five, is Linnets B. Their defeat by the strong Balfour B team in the Rumjahn Cup was a good show, the steady Hornby and Schulze gaining the side's sets.

Schulze has played table tennis in Germany and Czechoslovakia. If Callaghan and Dutch, one of the club's original members, can hit their true form, the team will be one to be reckoned with.

Cadwa A soon knocked off the "shade" I gave to Brenka last month and beat them 8-2. Another 100 per cent. record went when Aigburth took a point from the strong Everton Y.M. team. Wass and J. Donnelly were outstanding, winning two sets each for Aigburth and Y.M. respectively.

Aigburth slipped badly after leading Warbreck 4-1 at the interval. They lost 6-4 despite two good wins by White. Thompson and Baldwin both scored a double for Warbreck.

Bootle Y.M. and Cadwa B both hit the jackpot with their first wins. Now it is up to Osterley. Brenka made a gallant exit in the Rumjahn, losing 6-4 to Linacre.

Bouquet of the month must go to Warbreck Moor, who beat the Fifth Division side Bohemians B 9-1 in the Rumjahn Cup, after drwing 5-5 at Bohemians.

LEAGUE TABLES

to 11th December, 1954

First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
15 Crosby	10	9	0	1	70	30	19
Rafters	10	7	1	2	72	28	16
Balfour	9	7	0	2	66	24	16
Anfield	10	5	1	4	65	35	14
Balfour A	10	5	3	2	58	42	12
Linnets	10	3	3	4	47	53	10
Oakhill	10	2	3	5	47	53	9
Lucem	10	3	4	3	44	56	9
Rafters A	9	2	4	3	37	53	7
L'pool Y.M.	10	1	5	4	40	60	6
Nomads	8	1	5	2	33	47	4
Anfield A	10	0	7	3	28	72	3
Livex	9	0	8	1	19	71	1

Fifth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour B	9	9	0	0	75	15	18
Rafters B	9	8	0	1	61	29	17
Victoria Park B	8	7	1	0	49	31	14
Bootle Y.M. B	9	4	1	4	50	40	12
Oakhill B	9	3	3	3	51	39	9
Bohemians B	8	3	4	1	44	36	7
Balfour C	8	3	4	1	43	37	7
African Oil A	7	2	4	1	31	39	5
Anfield B	8	1	4	3	34	46	5
Victoria Park C	8	2	5	1	32	48	5
Balfour D	8	0	7	1	16	64	1
Anfield C	9	0	9	0	14	76	0

Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Victoria Park	9	7	1	1	66	24	15
Bohemians	9	7	1	1	63	27	15
Bootle Y.M.	8	6	0	2	55	25	14
Cadwa	8	5	2	1	53	27	11
Bath Street	9	4	2	3	51	39	11
Cheshire Lines	9	4	4	1	50	40	9
L'pool Y.M. A	9	3	5	1	34	56	7
African Oil	9	1	5	3	39	51	5
Waterloo Dock	8	2	5	1	27	53	5
Wavertree C.C.	9	1	5	3	27	63	5
Oakhill A	8	2	6	0	26	54	4
Litherland	9	0	6	3	29	61	3

Sixth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Cadwa A	8	8	0	0	62	18	16
Everton Y.M.	8	7	0	1	61	19	15
Brenka	9	7	1	1	67	23	15
Warbreck Moor	9	6	2	1	53	37	13
Aigburth	8	5	2	1	54	26	11
Linnets B	9	4	4	1	45	45	9
English Elec. A	8	4	4	0	38	42	8
W'loo Park A	8	2	5	1	32	48	5
Anfield D	9	1	7	1	31	59	3
Cadwa B	8	1	6	1	25	55	3
Bootle Y.M. C	8	1	7	0	20	60	2
Osterley A	8	0	8	0	12	68	0

Third Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bohemians A	9	7	0	2	67	23	16
Bootle Y.M. A	9	6	0	3	64	28	15
Panto	9	7	2	0	56	34	14
Victoria Park A	9	5	2	2	50	40	12
Lofters	9	5	3	1	48	42	11
Linacre	9	3	5	1	40	50	7
L.P.A.S.	9	3	5	1	39	51	7
Osterley	9	3	5	1	37	53	7
English Electric	9	2	5	2	38	52	6
Cheshire Lines A	9	0	4	5	35	55	5
Waterloo Park	9	2	6	1	32	58	5
I.C.I.	9	1	7	1	36	54	3

Women's Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bohemians	9	8	1	0	74	16	16
Rafters	8	8	0	0	61	19	16
Balfour	9	6	2	1	63	27	13
Cheshire Lines	8	5	2	1	38	42	11
Linnets	8	4	3	1	41	39	9
Oakhill	8	4	4	0	38	42	8
Waterloo Park	9	3	5	1	42	48	7
Anfield	8	3	4	1	37	43	7
Osterley	8	2	5	1	33	47	5
Littlewoods	9	3	6	0	36	54	6
Bibbys	8	1	7	0	24	56	2
Beauchair	8	0	8	0	13	67	0

Fourth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Beauchair	8	8	0	0	63	17	16
Maghull	9	8	1	0	68	22	16
Linnets A	9	7	2	0	61	29	14
Littlewoods	9	5	3	1	49	41	11
Panto A	9	5	4	0	50	40	10
L.P.A.S. A	8	4	2	2	46	34	10
Tech. Students	9	4	5	0	44	46	8
Litherland A	9	4	5	0	42	48	8
W'tree C.C. A	9	3	6	0	33	57	6
R.A.F.A.	9	2	6	1	41	49	5
Domestic Miss.	9	1	8	0	23	67	2
Livex A	9	0	9	0	10	80	0

Women's Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Cadwa	7	6	0	1	52	18	13
Bohemians A	8	6	1	1	57	23	13
Aigburth	6	4	1	1	46	14	9
Leyfield	7	4	3	0	46	24	8
Dunlop	8	3	3	2	42	38	8
Wavertree C.C.	7	3	3	1	40	30	7
Brenka	5	3	2	0	24	26	6
Oakhill A	7	1	6	0	17	53	2
Beauchair A	7	1	6	0	10	60	2
Linnets A	6	0	6	0	6	54	0

LEAGUE TABLES

North Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bath Street A ...	8	8	0	0	67	13	16
15 Crosby A ...	8	6	2	0	56	24	12
Lofters A	9	6	3	0	53	37	12
Co-op	8	5	2	1	52	28	11
Maghull A	9	4	4	1	47	43	9
Bath Street B ...	7	4	3	0	32	38	8
English Elec. C	8	3	5	0	29	51	6
W'loo Park B	8	2	6	0	31	49	4
Bootle Police ...	6	1	3	2	22	38	4
Litherland B ...	8	1	6	1	34	46	3
W'loo Park C ...	8	1	6	1	17	63	3

South Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Dunlop	8	8	0	0	60	20	16
Earle	9	6	1	2	63	27	14
Lucem A	9	5	1	3	58	32	13
Florence Oxton	8	6	2	0	49	31	12
Cadwa C	8	5	2	1	45	35	11
Rankin O.B. ...	4	3	0	1	30	10	7
W'tree C.C. B ...	9	3	5	1	41	49	7
L'pool Y.M. B...	8	3	4	1	37	43	7
Peel Hall	8	2	5	1	35	45	5
Cheshire Lines B	8	1	7	0	24	56	2
Sefton General	8	1	7	0	23	57	2
Linnets C	9	0	9	0	15	75	0

Central Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Oakhill C	9	8	0	1	77	13	17
Fairlawn	9	8	0	1	72	18	17
Beauchair A	10	7	0	3	78	22	17
G.L.S.C.	10	6	3	1	55	45	13
Leyfield	9	5	4	0	41	49	10
R.A.F. Mov. ...	9	4	4	1	40	50	9
L.P.A.S. B	8	3	4	1	42	38	7
Wa'tree Labour	9	3	6	0	41	49	6
Stanley House ...	9	3	6	0	33	57	6
R.A.F.A. A	9	2	7	0	27	63	4
Parcels	8	0	7	1	17	63	1
Tech. Students A	9	0	8	1	17	73	1

MANAGEMENT NOTES

THE Management Committee are very concerned at the large number of instances in which teams have turned up with players short, and have imposed fines on the following clubs for multiple offences: Livex, Victoria Park, Litherland (2), English Electric, Liverpool Y.M.C.A., Linnets, and Balfour. In order to save unnecessary correspondence, secretaries are requested to send a written explanation to the Fixture Secretary immediately after any match in which his team played short.

Re-grouping and New Registrations

Secretaries are reminded that the last date for registering new players (except ex-H.M.F.) is the 31st December, and that all re-groupings of teams must be submitted to the Fixture Secretary (for approval by the Management Committee) before 31st December.

Any list submitted after the stipulated date will not be considered, and previous ranking will remain in force.

STAR IN THE SOUTHERN SKY

By BILL BENT

IT has been the frequent comment of authoritative-sounding persons to whom I have spoken this season, that one of the effects of re-organisation was to weaken regional play beyond all recognition.

I wasn't convinced and decided to test the argument by a visit to the first inter-regional match of the season—North v South at Lofters. And the outcome was an excellent evening's entertainment.

It may be true that the standard is not quite the best the regions have known, but all the strokes were there and so was the will to win, while both sides provided the blend of youth and experience which augurs well for future development. The 5-5 result, too, meant that continued excitement, especially among the more partisan, was an added factor towards a complete defence of the regions.

North's strength lay in their opening pair, for both Joe Delamere and Cyril Smith took their sets—as might be expected from players of considerable First Division experience.

Anxious Moments

T. Smith, of Wavertree C.C., gave his Northern namesake some anxious moments, but Cyril's ability to gauge the speed of the rather slow table stood him in good stead. The South player too, allowed him to hit French-grip forehands far too long before countering with some good attacking shots he had not hitherto shown.

Les Mason, Ex-Linnet now with Dunlop, made Delamere go all out, but I failed to understand why, normally aggressive, he allowed the Crosby player and his backhand flick to dictate the play.

Wilf Shepherd, of Lucem, showed himself a hard player to beat. The table didn't suit him, but the net was unkind to Litherland's Keith Anderson, so things balanced out. Anderson enjoyed Shepherd's chopping high on to his forehand and the latter's overdose of a drop-shot that fell below perfection, cost him the second game, for Anderson hit everything that came high and pushed

the rest. Shepherd, however, realised his failings, eliminated them and won the third.

The best set of the night, and easily the most spectacular, was that in which Mason defeated Barry Wilson of Bath Street. Wilson had already undergone the ordeal of finding Eddie Clein defencing well and attacking magnificently and had been overwhelmed by this young man of all the shots and a cool head.

Wilson calmly retrieved Mason's rather tentative forehand shots to win the first game, but the Dunlop player hit harder and placed his "kill" extremely well to take the second. The decider was the last game of the evening from a technical point of view, and Mason hit with such power that he overcame Wilson's great defence.

Handicap Overcome

G. Linser, of Florence Oxton, impressed me a good deal. He has a fair idea of all the shots and despite the handicap of a locked knee, showed better footwork than seen from several First Division players. He won in two straight games from R. Chen, who seems to require a little more grooming and experience before he quite makes inter-regional grade.

Linser also successfully prevented Anderson from hitting, but the latter (about whose regional qualification there must surely be some doubt) overcame this difficulty by playing close to the net, causing Linser to lose some of his former accuracy and concentration and the set in straight games.

Clein, to my mind the discovery of the evening, had a fairly easy win over Chen and must surely deserve promotion in the South team-sheet if we are to see him extended.

To clinch a draw for the North, Delamere had to beat T. Smith and this he did with a fair amount of ease, despite some good defensive play by the Wavertree man.

And a fairer result to a match, open all the way, it would, of course, have been impossible to find.

Only Two Originals Left

YOU may remember that last month I expressed surprise that Brenka were doing better in the league.

I found when visiting the Enka to watch their match against Leyfield, that only two of their original team remain, namely D. Wilson and S. Cantwell. Both of them have been with Brenka for several seasons and have proved a real asset to the team. In this match they took four of the six sets which Brenka won.

Playing No. 2 for the Aintree club is E. Marcall, better known to old members of the league as Edie Malley. Although she confesses that she is well out of practice, not having played for many years, she will, before the season is through, prove a really useful addition to the team.

Keen Newcomers

Of the other two players little can be said at the moment as they are both completely new to the game, but they are very keen and that goes a long way towards the making of good players. M. Rowbotham in particular played well against Leyfield's No. 3, D. Bellion, taking her to three before losing.

And now to Leyfield. They are a team which I feel one must admire. They will forgive me when I say they are not a young side but they certainly have always been a fighting team, although, as they say, they play the game more for enjoyment than for any medals they may win.

Against Brenka they fought extremely well, several games going to three. Probably the game of the evening was that between E. Marcall and D. Bellion, the Brenka player eventually winning. But how close that game was only the score will show. D. Bellion won the first 21-14, only to lose the next two 28-26, 22-20.

Now that the Merseyside is over and we are once more back to normal, the knowledge that Bohemians were drawn at home to Rafterns in the second round of the Bartholomew Cup drew me to Stoneycroft to watch this needle match. I felt that the winning team that night stood a good chance of ultimately gaining the cup. The result, however, was a draw.

Moya Jones played extremely well to win both her sets, beating L. Rumjahn 15-21, 21-12, 21-12, and very decisively beating K. Casselman 21-10, 21-16.

There was a particularly gruelling set between Kay Rumjahn and Daisy Mezey, both preferring to defend rather than attack and after 45 minutes the Rafterns player staggered away from the table victorious. What patience and concentration these two players needed.

Joan Brennand played a good game to beat May Alcock 21-19, 21-16, and followed up by winning her set against Chris Gleed. Muriel Willcox took one set from Kay Rumjahn and only lost her second to L. Rumjahn 24-26 in the third.

Untraditional

It was at this match that an incident occurred which to me, is not in keeping with the traditions of table tennis.

As one winner was walking away from the table after a very tough set, the opposing captain called her on again. I am aware that there is no rule against this, but there is surely an unwritten law which will not allow a sportsman to take advantage of her opponents in this way.

I hope in the replay there will not be a repetition of such incidents. Surely the winning of a cup is not so important that we must lose all sense of sportsmanship.

A Correction

A point is last month's Comment needs correction.

In his reference to the four women semi-finalists our writer had in mind Eileen Mansell, Nan Lamb, Beryl Waterson and Pinky Rumjahn. The last named, of course, did not appear in the semi-finals. The fourth player was Gladys Rimmer.

This fact, however, increases the force of the point made, for not one of those players is appearing in any of the women's teams this season.

STILL BATTLE OF THREE

IT seems as though Dunlop, Lucem and Earle are determined to stay in the top three places. So far the other clubs have failed to break their monopoly but I am certain that Florence Oxtan or Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B will be ready to step in should the leaders falter.

At the other end of the table, Linnets C, who at present hold up the League, have not yet won a single point. In fact, from top to bottom the region has not changed much from the tables shown in the last issue.

One thing I must say. Dunlop with their present line-up of L. Mason, F. Williamson, J. Cashin and G. O'Leary and R. Routledge are the best in this region and have little to fear at present.

It was decided that the region must play both the North and Central teams in the Micklesfield Medals before the end of December and on November 30 we played our first match against the North at Lofters. A commentary by Bill Bent appears elsewhere.

The next match is against the Central at Beauclair on December 29. Your support will be welcome.

In the Hyde Cup Dunlop, Earle, Lucem and Florence Oxtan are still going strong. Earle managed to beat Police B 6-4 at home, after drawing 5-5 away. Lucem defeated Oakhill C, Central's top team, 6-4.

J. Cashin (Dunlop No. 3) must be congratulated on having played 14 league games and winning the lot. A meritable performance. Other players with good records include E. M. Clein (Liverpool Y.M.) and L. Mason (Dunlop) 100 per cent.; W. Shepherd (Lucem) 87.5 per cent.; L. Reeves (Florence Oxtan) 85.71 per cent.; and R. Routledge (Dunlop) 83.33 per cent.

Owing to an oversight the result of last season's Rumjahn Cup final was omitted from the League handbook. Apologies to the winners, Bath Street, and to the donor.

We Share His Fine Feat

THE North Region can take pride in the achievement of young Peter Turtle, of Everton Y.M.C.A., in reaching the final of the Junior Singles of the Merseyside Open.

Although he and his club have passed into "more exalted" spheres with the re-organisation of the League, it was in North Regional circles that Peter made his debut and learned most of his game. Even last season he was showing the promise of better things to come, and now they seemed to have arrived.

Following, as he has done, in the steps of Arthur Taylor, now of Bath Street but better remembered by the "North" as of Litherland, the Region can undoubtedly claim the distinction of having produced the two best youngsters of recent years.

Is it too much to hope that others will come after?

Bath Street A are maintaining their dominance of the Region. They have consolidated their unbeaten leadership of the table last month with three convincing victories in which they have conceded only two sets—to Waterloo Park C. Most notable of their wins was their 10-0 defeat of Lofters A, one of their possible challengers.

In addition, the Waterloo boys are helping to keep the North flag flying merrily in the Hyde Cup, together with Lofters A and 15th Crosby A.

They entered the third round by means of a resounding 9-1 victory over the unbeaten South Region leaders, Dunlop.

Indeed, Southern teams received a bad mauling in the Cup from North teams, for 15th Crosby also won 9-1 over Linnets C and Lofters A eliminated Peel Hall by seven sets to three.

Let's hope that one of the Northern trio will bring the Cup to where it should belong.

All was Very Jolly, but . . .

VISITING Panto early this month was not a good idea. I found them having difficulty in raising a team, due to late and extra duties. They managed to eventually field four players.

I don't think I have ever watched a match played in a more jovial atmosphere, but this I fear has a lot to do with Panto's lowly position in the table. They are inclined to take the game too lightly. More concentration at the table could make a difference to their results.

Another club I visited was G.L.S.C. where I witnessed a very good match between them and Beauclair. It was a battle for third place in the table, and battle was the right word. Every set, game and point was keenly contested, and the result—7-3 in Beauclair's favour—does not indicate the closeness of the match.

Fred Farrell and Jack McKim (Beauclair's Nos. 1 and 2) were our only 100 per centers until they met T. Faneran (No. 1 for G.L.S.C.). He

claimed both their scalps, both in the third game.

I would like to compliment Faneran on one of the most sporting gestures I have seen for some time.

When leading 8-5 in the third game against McKim, he accidentally knocked the table and moved it. His return was a winner, but he insisted that the point was against him, despite the fact that the umpire, unaware of the rule, had given it otherwise. He deserved to win that third game for his sportsmanship, and did so 21-19.

The result left the first four positions unchanged, although Beauclair had dropped a point by drawing with Police B, whom G.L.S.C. had beaten, but the most surprising result was Leyfield's 9-1 win over Police.

This season, with only three regions, we are playing each opponent home and away. We play North to-morrow (Friday, December 17) and South on Wednesday, December 29, both at Beauclair. How about supporting your team?

*Deliciously different
Differently delicious*

MOORHOUSE'S LEMONADE

When catering for refreshments
telephone ANField 3248

We supply :—

BUKTA Table Tennis Shirts in all colours.
Johnny Leach, Barna, Bergmann etc. T.T. Bats.
A variety of Spring Rubber Bats, Tables,
Nets and Posts *in fact*
EVERYTHING FOR TABLE TENNIS

HENRY WHITTY & SON LTD.

15 BASNETT ST., LIVERPOOL 1
Telephone - - - ROYal 3011

PETER TURTLE RAISES NEW HOPE

By J. D. LOUGHREY

FROM the salubrious surroundings of the Philharmonic Hall, to the Picton Hall, and finally the Drill Hall in Mather Avenue—the Merseyside Open Championships completed a cycle and possibly for only the third time in their history the finals were played in the same hall as the preliminary rounds.

It seemed most strange not to be involved in a hectic dash to the scene of the finals, loaded with equipment, players and all the numerous things necessary for the evening's play.

Whatever else could be said for this year's venue, it seems certain that the players at least were well pleased with the conditions. There were times during the Men's Singles final when Brian Kennedy would have been almost outside the Picton Hall, so far back did he go to defend. Never was the need for adequate space so clearly underlined.

Full of Interest

Though one or two names were missing there were many famous players in the finals, and while the evening was long a great number of the sets were so enjoyable as to make the occasion full of interest.

There is no need to apologise for picking out the first event—the final of the Junior Singles—as being the set of the evening for local followers. In this we had one of our own players, a fact so rare that there is every good reason to remember the 18th Merseyside for that reason alone.

Without delving too far into records, it is fairly safe to say that this was the first occasion since the war that one of our male players had reached that stage. So there was every reason to celebrate.

Peter Turtle, of Everton Y.M., was the player to accomplish the feat, and while he failed at the last fence, there was a time, when leading 12-8 in the second game having won the first against G. Forbes, of Barrow, that it seemed likely he was actually going to win. He has his shortcomings in defence, but his attack, splendid in the earlier rounds, did not let him down in the final and some of his hitting brought well merited applause from the crowd.

With further instruction and a leavening of experience, this youngster could do well.

The all-Yorkshire Men's Singles finals was possibly the most spectacular event of the evening, with Hinchliffe from Huddersfield hitting superbly until the tenacity of Kennedy, coupled with a shade of weariness, gradually wore him down. This was a final to delight and a much brighter affair than has sometimes graced the occasion in recent years.

All the doubles titles, as well as the Women's Singles, went to the holders, a most unusual happening. Helen Elliott, in particular, never seemed likely to lose her singles title and was hardly ever extended.

Simons Shocked

Sensations were few throughout Saturday, the one big shock being the defeat of Aubrey Simons in straight games by Arnold Shepherd of Manchester.

An increased number of qualifiers from the local entry provided some strange faces in the Men's Singles on Saturday, more particularly as several of our better known players did not compete. None of them made any progress of note, but the innovation seemed a distinct success as it gave some of the lesser lights an opportunity to meet top-class players, a chance which could hardly have existed under the old arrangement.

It is to be hoped that Turtle's example will be followed before long by other League members, making these Championships memorable for the first sign of a revival in our playing strength and not just a bright spot in an otherwise unending story of failure.

No One Barred

To avoid possible misunderstanding, it should be pointed out that possible invitations to outside tournaments and any other schemes organised by the Management Committee, are not of necessity to be confined to members of the Nomads team.

This impression may erroneously have been given in last month's article on the Nomads, but young players not included in the side because they are ineligible, are not thereby debarred from any other schemes designed to improve the general standards of play.

Liverpool's Day of Glory

THERE were 205 entries for the first Merseyside Open held just 25 years ago, with the finals at the Picton Hall.

Despite entries from many of the top-class players outside the district, Liverpool was very much in evidence on the final night.

Ann Pollitt won the Women's Singles for Liverpool, by beating M. Haydon (Birmingham), and Don Foulis, with Joyce Bartholomew, were also successful in the Mixed Doubles.

Foulis was defeated in the semi-finals of the Men's Singles, and with League founder Les Forrest was also concerned in the final of the Men's Doubles.

The Women's Doubles were not started till 1931-32.

Compare all this with our sole representative this year, and it is clear Liverpool has a long way to go before returning to those halcyon days.

Some of our players are called upon to take over many unusual duties. For instance officiating at a children's party given by the staff of Radiant House was Father (Boden) Christmas.



The Sports Specialist

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

JACK SHARP

Telephone:

LIMITED

ROYAL 4793/4

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS . .

36-38 Whitechapel : LIVERPOOL 1

Birthday Gift to Chester

THIS is an outstanding season for the Chester and District League, for they are celebrating their "coming of age" and as a birthday present the Cheshire Association agreed to their promoting this season's Cheshire Open.

The tournament is to be staged at the drill hall in Volunteer Street, Chester, on Friday and Saturday, January 28 and 29, with the finals starting at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday evening, and the closing date for entries is Saturday, January 15. Forms are obtainable from Mr. S. H. Dutton, 35 Carrick Road, Curzon Park, Chester.

Liverpool has something of a parental interest in the Cheshire for it was first organised by our League when Mr. Les Forrest was secretary.

This season has also special significance for Mr. Ron Juler, the chairman of the Chester League, for, being a founder member, it marks his 21 years' connection with the league as a player and official.

To mark the event and his services to the league, Chester made a presentation to him at a recent social.

During his years of service Mr. Juler has undoubtedly done much to foster table tennis in the Chester district. Like our own league in days gone by, the task of keeping the game, and the organisation flourishing has not always been easy, and nothing is more certain than that table tennis owes much to men like him who have given unstintingly so much of their leisure time and thought for its well-being.

Congratulations to Charlie Manning, of Victoria Park and the Management Committee, on his marriage in September. But, why, oh, why, Charlie, did you keep it so quiet.

Cup Draws

The following are the draws for the Third Round of the various cups, matches to be played during week commencing 3rd January, 1955. Matches may be played earlier by mutual consent.

Readman Cup

15 Crosby v Victoria Park
Balfour A v Balfour
Rafters v Oakhill/Livex
Oakhill A v Osterley

Rumjahn Cup

C.L.C. A v Victoria Park A
Bootle Y.M.C.A. A v Linacre
Panto v Balfour B
Waterloo Park v Beauclair

Hyde Cup

R.A.F.A. A v G.L.S.C.
Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B v Fairlawn
Bath Street A v Beauclair A
15 Crosby A v Lofters A

Bartholomew Cup

Littlewoods v Aigburth
Wavertree C.C./Beauclair v Balfour
Oakhill/Bibbys v Bohemians/Rafters
Anfield v Osterley

Stamp Cup

Bohemians v Linnets
Littlewoods v 15 Crosby
Rafters v Anfield
English Electric v Balfour