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TABLE  
TENNIS  
DIGEST

*Official Magazine*

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

# Table Tennis Digest

All correspondence  
must be addressed to  
The Editor "Table  
Tennis Digest," 9  
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EDITORIAL BOARD:  
Joint Editors: J. D. Pattison and J. D. Loughrey  
W. Stamp A. Montgomery J. H. C. Hughes

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Vol. VI

December, 1955

No. 1

## COMMENT

**A** DEGREE of interest has been aroused by the sides selected for the Lancashire League matches, and a certain amount of misunderstanding as to the underlying reasons is also abroad.

In actual fact this latest action is but a part of the Management Committee's general policy to do everything in its power to bring the youth of the League to the top, and to provide them with as much encouragement as it can. The group likely to be selected this season have it in their own hands to bring Liverpool back to the top division in Lancashire League, and it is a project of absorbing interest to those with the closest interests of the game at heart, to see if it is a task which they can accomplish in a short space of time.

There can be no doubt there is an increasing body of opinion which holds that our best players at present, cannot, in the natural order of things, be expected to hold sway for much longer, and the driving force of the League's organisation must be directed to a much younger group who have the potential to accomplish even greater feats given the right kind of opportunity. This is a viewpoint to which we most heartily subscribe, and firmly believe that in time a rich reward will result, provided patience and perseverance are at no time forgotten.

This then is the answer to those who have been a trifle bewildered at the new players who are wearing the Liverpool colours.

It is a sorry reflection on the state of women's table tennis in Liverpool that the Selection Committee have not found it possible to follow the same policy in the selection of the women's team, but it remains a fact that there is hardly a single member of the fair sex under 21 who could in any way stand up to the rigours of representative play at the present time.

As has been threatening for some time, the Women's second division had to be dropped this season, and there is a real threat that before long the already small band of women will be further reduced and confine their activities purely to the open divisions. We would regard this as a tragedy of the first order for, despite its variable standards of play, the Women's division is essential as a developing ground, and its disappearance would deal a terrible blow to Merseyside table tennis.

## **DOUBLES DIVISION MAKES LITTLE APPEAL : WHY?**

**By W. STAMP.**

WE commence our 30th season with one division less than last year, due to the fact that there were only 15 applications for the Women's Division, and while we would have been quite prepared to have had two divisions of 10 teams, it could not be reduced any further, so it was decided to have only one Women's Division and to ask the other three applicants to absorb their players in the other divisions.

The Doubles Division does not appear to find favour, as there were only two applications again this season. I wonder whether players generally realise the fun there is in doubles play, as well as giving good tournament practice. Lack of side space may be the reason for some club's reluctance, but I maintain there are sufficient good sized headquarters to enable one division to be formed. Rule 26 makes provision for such a division and you are not confined to playing the same six players in every match.

We extend a warm welcome to seven new clubs, Bedford Social Club, Douglas Youth Club, Ebani, Harold House, Lussac, Orrell Wardens Youth Club and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force. We hope their association with us will be a long and happy one.

When the handbooks were distributed to the club secretaries on September 20 at the special general meeting, it was announced that the possibilities of staging the Merseyside Open were rather remote. Unfortunately we had to confirm the cancelling of the tournament for this year, making seven in all throughout the country. Grimsby, North Midlands, Pontefract, Thameside, Metropolitan and Central London, have all been cancelled, due to increased

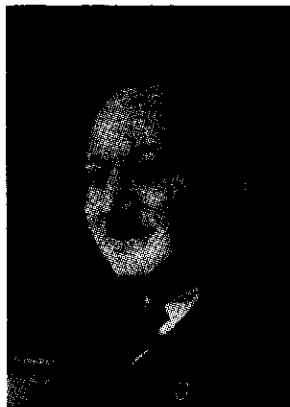
costs or difficulties over finding a suitable hall.

We had no financial problems, but Mather Avenue Drill Hall, where we have been for the past few years, now has new tenants and was only available to us on Friday night and Saturday, and allowing for the use of Rose Lane School on the Saturday (we could not have it during the week on account of night classes), we could not have got through the preliminaries. We could not restrict entries as it would have ceased to be an open tournament.

We inspected many other premises, including three drill halls, and places that may have been adapted to our purpose, but all were in use the nights we required them. Consideration had to be given to the new tournament regulations regarding side space and run back, dressing accommodation and canteen facilities, which are always a big problem in a tournament that has to cater for competitors from other parts of the country, and we were unable to find anywhere suitable.

We have built up a good reputation over the years, and rather than lower our standards and organise it under any but first-class conditions, we reluctantly decided to cancel for this year, and feel sure that all who have supported us in the past, will agree with us.

Announcements have been made in the *Echo* and *Express* that league matches could be brought forward from Christmas week to the blank week commencing November 21. Many secretaries requested this concession due to team difficulties so near the festive season, and any clubs who have not seen this announcement, still have time to re-arrange.



## Challenge of Bohemians

THE commencement of the season again saw the usual shuffling of players from one club to another, those mostly affected being Bohemians and Victoria Park, with Balfour one of the losers.

For their first division debut the Park strengthened their side by signing on Tony Smith (Balfour) and Ron Grayson (from Wirral) and these with Truman and Lijinski make them a useful side. Unfortunately Grayson has since been very irregular in his appearances.

The other promoted team, Bohemians, gained Vic Chesham (Livex), Bill Harris (Balfour) and Bernard Hand (15th Crosby). With Don Bruce at No. 4 and their former No. 1, Ken Jones, at No. 8, they are a formidable team, capable of challenging for top place.

We have some idea of the strength of the newcomers when we study the result of the Balfour v Victoria Park match, which Balfour won 9-1, Park's only set being won by reserve Bill Jones over Harold Willcock.

The league champions, with Les Davies, Norman Jones, Reg Hetherington, Ken Caulton and Willcock as

regular players, will be a hard nut for any team to crack. They have already beaten Rafters 6-4 and Bohemians seem to be their chief worry.

Perhaps a preview of the possible final positions can be judged from the Rafters v Bohs match which ended in a draw with Bernard Hand injured and watching. For Bohs, Chesham won two v Ronnie and myself and brother Ted got two for Rafters, one of which was against reserve Vickers at No. 1 and the other v Harris.

Anfield, with Stoddard at No. 1, since their 9-1 win over Nomads, have had a run of draws, against Victoria Park (minus Grayson), Linnets, Y.M.C.A. and Balfour A, Oakes, Killip and Stoddard being their main set winners.

There is going to be a terrific struggle at the bottom of the division between Rafters A, Lucem, Nomads, Balfour A and Oakhill. Lucem are having team difficulties and are relying mainly on Hobbs and Rimmer to get them out of trouble, while Les Mulholland seems to be the main hope of Balfour A. Only beating Lucem 6-4 was not a good omen for their future.

## WE'RE STRONGER THIS SEASON

IF the start made by Oakhill A is anything to judge by, the division is very much stronger this season than last. With virtually the same team they finished half way up the ladder at the end of last season, but this term they went four games without winning a point. Oddly enough, at the fifth try they took both points from Anfield A, a team previously undefeated.

It is perhaps a little early to start predicting, but I do not think there is much risk involved in suggesting Bath Street as likely candidates for promotion. With the acquisition of Joe Delamere they are a force to be reckoned with in any division, and this is borne out by their win over Lucem in the Readman Cup game.

From the opposition which I have so far encountered, I would say that their strongest challengers will be Bootle Y.M., and a fine thing it would be if they do get into the higher sphere. The whole

team is young, very enthusiastic, and pretty solid from No. 1 to No. 5.

Another point which I like is their willingness to hit the ball when given the opportunity. It is true that some of them are perhaps, a little too keen just now but this is a fault which, given experience and good opposition, should gradually be rectified.

While these are two teams which I fancy, I certainly would not argue with anyone who advocated the claim of Bohemians A. At the time of writing they have taken six points from a possible ten, and look set to take many more since adding Stan Draper, a player of no mean ability and plenty of experience, to their strength.

Before the next issue of the magazine, I will be playing against African Oil Mills, Victoria Park A, and Liverpool Y.M. A, and may be given cause to alter my assessment of the division. I hope so, for it will indicate that it is stronger than I had believed.

## UNHAPPY TIME FOR NEWCOMERS

WITH five matches played the division is settling down and at the time of writing three of the new teams occupy the bottom three positions. Linnets A, Wavertree A and Beauclair have not had a happy time so far. Obvious strengthening is needed to avoid relegation.

Maghull, the fourth newcomer, however, are in fine form and up at the top and they will be hard to shake. One must admire the club. After great difficulty in finding accommodation, they have an excellent room and if the journey is long you are sure of a warm welcome, both on and off the table.

The Police, after losing their first match, have carried all before them, including Maghull. It appears that a change of quarters is an ideal tonic. Certainly many old third divisioners will be relieved of the task of hunting lost balls in the dark of St. Anne's Institute.

Panto and I.C.I. follow next on level points. In a recent drawn game between them, the final game ended shortly after 8.30 p.m., early even for a 6.30 start. The I.C.I. are playing well and pulled up in that match from 1-5 down.

Derek Sayer, with his sandpaper bat, is as difficult as ever to beat. His meeting with Alf Siddall, of Wavertree, should prove interesting—sandpaper v sponge. Unfortunately for I.C.I., they cannot count on Jones every week and his absence may lose them valuable points.

Middle of the table Lofters, Osterley, Linacre and Waterloo Park, are situated handy and few points separate them. Waterloo's position belies their play while Linacre, with their faithful few, are always capable of the surprise win. In their away match with Maghull eight sets went to three games in the 7-3 win for Maghull.

## Surprises Are Likely

AT the start of my first notes of the season, let me make the position regarding them quite clear. In these short articles there is not space to deal with a month's matches as one might like to do. There is only room for the highlights, so anyone who wants a mention must first provide that highlight.

I will, however, be watching every team at least twice during the season, so please give me something to write about.

This season's little lot gives our division a more than usually interesting look about it. After six weeks' matches we have two unbeaten teams—Litherland A and Cadwa A.

From those six matches Litherland took 11 points, having drawn with Panto. Yet Panto themselves lost twice in that period, which shows that there may be loads of surprises for division leaders before the season is out.

And Cadwa only just beat R.A.F.A. (who lie fourth) 6-4. I have a sneaking suspicion that R.A.F.A. will be doing a lot of damage before we are much older.

At the other end of the table Wavertree have yet to win a point, but this team have a habit of strengthening up round about Christmas and usually proceed to beat all comers just to show what they can do. I shall be vastly surprised to find them at the foot of the table by March.

Aigburth field much the same side season after season. In these days when players bob from club to club, it is good to see some contented enough to turn out for the same club for years.

Ever since the Aigburth club started, Stan Donnelly, Eli Wass and Ray White have been there. K. Hughes and J. Rudkin came later and they too stuck. And I believe that these five have sufficient ability to lift their team back to what it was five years ago. The signs are there anyway.

I have seen a promising youngster from Brenka—Billy Miller. I heard him getting some good advice from Vic Chesham one night, and if he takes it to heart I believe you will be hearing a lot more of Master Miller in the future.

## Young Gunnion a bright hope

FIRST a welcome to the new boys—Dunlops, Warbreck Moor, and Waterloo Park. May they have a happy season with us.

A word of sympathy to Ken McKechnie, of Balfour, who was taken ill before a recent match and had to retire. He is now out for the season through sickness, but we hope that he will fully recover and be back again next season.

The matches I saw.

First: Dunlop v Bootle, a mixture of good hitting and some very careless play. I was amazed at the number of services that were wasted and I lost count of the number that were not retrieved. I feel that with a little more steadiness Bootle might have won.

I must take Bootle to task for their unpunctuality. At eight o'clock they had two men. Dunlop had five. Two more Bootle men came at 8.30 and the fifth arrived at 9.35. Surely players can do better than that.

The bright spot on the horizon was the promise of 14-year-old Gunnion. He will make a good player with more experience and should go a long way. Dunlop's, in my opinion, have the best lighting in the league. They have three lights down each side of the table which makes playing conditions perfect.

Second: Warbreck Moor v Waterloo Park, keenly contested from the start with the hitting of Arris of Warbreck its big feature. He is one of the hardest hitters I have seen in our division. Waterloo have also some men who can hit. These two teams will be a credit to the division because ten men were present at the start.

May I appeal for a sterner application of the service rule. The ball *must* be thrown up from the flat palm and not pinched between finger and thumb. Players are getting away with far too much.

If secretaries or captains have any news of interest, drop me a line at 3 Cretan Road, Wavertree, Liverpool. Remember what interests you, interests others.

## TRUE SON OF HIS PARENTS

TO Linnets, Osterley, Warbreck and Waterloo Park, who were members of our division last season, I offer my apologies for records not being included in my notes. They were included by me but excluded by the editorial through lack of space.

Four remain of last season's stalwarts. To date I have seen Oakhill, who have a nice mixture of youth and experience. A name well known in table tennis is to be found among them—that of Billy Crafter, son of Rene and Ivy.

Bill Glover still enjoys his unorthodox game; Roberts, ex-Anfield, will be a hard man to beat at No. 1; Gummery is a young man of promise, and beware you youngsters and watch out for Mr. (Oakhill) Moore. Best performance to date—to be down 1-4 at the interval to Bath Street and win 6-4. Anfield did well to pip them 6-4.

With only Ted Jones surviving from last season's team and Coleman and Rogers promoted from last season's North Region wooden spoonists, English Electric are more than pleased with their three points to date. Frank Wilkie, from Earle, has given the side confidence with some first rate performances. Jimmy Byrne, from Maghull, completes the team. But watch out chaps, a new signing is imminent.

It is difficult to point out good or bad results at such an early date. Linnets did well to gain their first point from Rankin, thanks mainly to Crowther's two sets. McCrae won two for Rankin.

Fowler, of Lofters, and McVey, of Domestic, obtain top marks for the drawn game between their two clubs, the game breaking Lofters' duck.

The League tables will give you an up-to-date story of the outstanding teams. I tip Liverpool Y.M.C.A., but will be quite happy if Fairlawn prove me wrong.

In conclusion I would like, on behalf of our division, to pay respects to George Burgoyne, who was a member of the Osterley team which played with us.

# LEAGUE TABLES

up to and including 12th November, 1955

## First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour .....	6	6	0	0	52	8	12
Rafters .....	6	4	1	1	41	19	9
Bohemians .....	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Victoria Park .....	6	3	1	2	34	26	8
Anfield .....	6	1	1	4	33	27	6
Linnets .....	6	2	2	2	31	29	6
Oakhill .....	6	2	2	2	31	29	6
Liverpool Y.M. ....	6	2	2	2	27	33	6
Nomads .....	6	2	4	0	20	40	4
Balfour A .....	6	1	4	1	21	39	3
Rafters A .....	6	1	5	0	15	45	2
Lucem .....	6	0	5	1	19	41	1

## Fifth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Victoria Park B .....	6	5	0	1	40	20	11
Balfour B .....	6	5	1	0	21	19	10
Dunlop .....	6	5	1	0	38	22	10
Rafters B .....	6	3	1	2	35	25	8
Bootle Y.M. B .....	6	3	2	1	33	27	7
Bohemians B .....	6	3	2	1	30	30	7
Oakhill B .....	6	2	2	2	30	30	6
Anfield B .....	6	1	3	2	25	35	4
Waterloo Pk A .....	6	1	4	1	26	34	3
Victoria Park C .....	6	1	4	1	23	37	3
Warbreck Moor .....	6	1	5	0	24	36	2
Balfour C .....	6	0	5	1	15	45	1

## Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bootle Y.M. ....	6	6	0	0	46	14	12
Anfield A .....	6	4	1	1	37	23	9
Bath Street .....	6	3	1	2	39	21	8
Litherland .....	6	4	2	0	32	28	8
Bohemians A .....	6	2	1	3	32	28	7
Cadwa .....	6	2	2	2	26	34	6
Bottle Y.M. A .....	6	0	2	4	26	34	4
Victoria Park A .....	6	1	3	2	26	34	4
L'pool Y.M. A .....	6	1	3	2	24	36	4
Oakhill A .....	6	2	4	0	23	37	4
African Oil .....	6	1	4	1	29	31	3
Waterloo Dock .....	6	1	4	1	20	40	3

## Sixth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
L'pool Y.M. B .....	6	6	0	0	52	8	12
Fairlawn .....	6	5	1	0	40	20	10
Oakhill C .....	5	4	1	0	34	16	8
Bath St. A .....	5	3	2	0	29	21	6
Domestic Mis. ....	6	1	2	3	28	32	5
Anfield C .....	5	2	3	0	17	33	4
Rankin O.B. ....	4	1	2	1	17	23	3
Eng. Electric A .....	5	1	3	1	21	29	3
Cadwa A .....	5	1	3	1	19	31	3
Lofters A .....	5	1	3	1	17	33	3
Linnets B .....	6	0	5	1	16	44	1

## Third Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
L.P.A.S. ....	6	5	1	0	38	22	10
Maghull .....	6	5	1	0	37	23	10
Panto .....	6	3	1	2	36	24	8
I.C.I. ....	6	3	1	2	35	25	8
Lofters .....	6	4	2	0	34	26	8
English Electric .....	6	2	1	3	35	25	7
Linacre .....	6	2	2	2	29	31	6
Osterley .....	6	2	2	2	28	32	6
Waterloo Park .....	6	1	3	2	28	32	4
Beauclair .....	6	1	4	1	26	34	3
Wavertree .....	6	0	5	1	19	41	1
Linnets A .....	6	0	5	1	15	45	1

## Women's Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Anfield .....	6	6	0	0	49	11	12
Bohemians .....	6	6	0	0	47	13	12
Rafters .....	6	4	1	1	41	19	9
Oakhill .....	6	4	2	0	31	29	8
Waterloo Park .....	6	3	2	1	33	27	7
Balfour .....	5	3	2	0	30	20	6
Littlewoods .....	6	2	4	0	25	35	4
Bibbys .....	6	2	4	0	24	36	4
Osterley .....	6	1	4	1	24	36	3
Cadwa .....	5	0	4	1	16	34	1
Linnets .....	6	0	6	0	9	51	0

## Fourth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Cadwa A .....	6	6	0	0	45	15	12
Litherland A .....	6	5	0	1	42	18	11
Aigburth .....	6	3	1	2	32	28	8
R.A.F.A. ....	5	3	2	0	28	22	6
Panto A .....	5	2	2	1	28	22	5
L.P.A.S. A .....	5	1	2	2	25	25	5
Everton Y.M. ....	5	2	3	0	22	28	4
Tech. Studs. ....	5	2	3	0	25	25	4
Brenka .....	5	1	3	1	24	26	3
African Oil A .....	6	1	4	1	22	38	3
Wavertree A .....	6	0	6	0	7	53	0

## North Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Waterloo Pk B .....	6	5	0	1	51	9	11
Litherland B .....	6	4	0	2	42	18	10
Bootle Y.M. C .....	6	5	1	0	37	23	10
Maghull A .....	6	3	2	1	36	24	7
Bath St. B .....	6	3	2	1	35	25	7
Co-op .....	6	3	2	1	34	26	7
Brenka A .....	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Litherland C .....	5	3	2	0	33	17	6
Orrell .....	6	0	5	1	15	45	1
Douglas Y.C. ....	5	0	4	1	11	39	1
R.A.A.F. ....	5	0	4	1	10	40	1
Co-op A .....	6	0	6	0	8	52	0

## LEAGUE TABLES

### South Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Harold House	6	5	0	1	44	16	11
Sefton General	6	5	1	0	43	17	10
Bedford	6	3	0	3	39	21	9
Rafters C.	6	3	0	3	36	24	9
Lucm A	6	3	2	1	36	24	7
Lussac	6	2	2	2	32	28	6
Florence Oxton	5	3	2	0	26	24	6
L'pool Y.M.C.	5	2	3	0	23	27	4
Dunlop A	6	1	4	1	23	37	3
Wavertree Lab.	6	1	4	1	20	40	3
Aigburth A	6	0	4	2	21	39	2
African Oil B...	6	0	6	0	7	53	0

### Central Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
G.L.S.C.	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Rankin A	6	4	0	2	39	21	10
Cadwa C	6	4	1	1	40	20	9
Leyfield	6	3	2	1	34	26	7
Bohemians C.	6	1	2	3	29	31	5
Ebani	6	2	3	1	26	34	5
Osterley A	5	2	2	1	23	27	5
Lofters A	4	2	2	0	23	17	4
L.P.A.S. B	5	2	3	0	23	27	4
R.A.F. Mov.	5	1	3	1	20	30	3
Tech. Stud. A...	6	1	5	0	19	41	2
Anfield D	6	1	5	0	13	47	2

### IMPORTANT

One or two clubs are not posting score cards within 48 hours. They can anticipate automatic fining, as per Rule 25, in future

## OAKHILL HOPES

Oakhill are very hopeful about the promise some of their younger members are showing, in particular 16 years old L. Gummery and 15 years old Eileen Kearns.

Gummery began the season in the C team but was quickly promoted to the B team, and now the likelihood is that he will be playing for Oakhill A before the season is out. He has something like an 80 per cent. record.

As for Eileen, this is her first season at table tennis and is making great strides. She was first noted in the summer by Helen Elliott at a Butlin's camp. The latter recommended her to League Secretary Bill Stamp. A week's coaching at Lilleshall set her on the right road.

## MANAGEMENT NOTES

THERE are a few handbooks available for members who require an extra copy and may be obtained from Mr. Cameron or Mr. Stamp (price 2/-).

The Committee are anxious that no youngsters should be overlooked who could derive benefit from coaching in conjunction with the Nomads, and secretaries are asked to note the age of any player under 18 alongside his name when returning future score cards.

Will ALL players make a note of the following alterations in their handbooks:—

Page 14: Rule 22b, 3rd line, delete "the first" and substitute 'A' and delete "on merit".

Page 24: Domestic Mission, match night altered to Monday.

Page 25: Litherland, new secretary, Mr. W. Clayton, 96 Ennerdale Drive, Liverpool 21. Home, Waterloo 4760.

Page 25: Littlewoods, new secretary, Mrs. J. Newell, 30 Seymour Road, Liverpool 21. Office, Waterloo 6611, Ext. 3.

Page 27: Liverpool Police Athletic Society, new headquarters, Anfield Road Police Station. 13/14 trams or 63/64 bus to Cabbage Hall, 26/27 bus to Gaumont Cinema.

Page 28: R.A.F. Movement, new secretary, Corporal Halsall, address as before.

Page 40: Division 4: delete Littlewoods who have withdrawn their men's team.

Page 47: South Region: delete Linnets C and insert Liverpool Y.M.C., match night, Monday (see page 26).

Page 48: Delete Dunlop B and insert Lofters B, match night Wednesday (see page 27).

Page 28: New secretary of Osterley is Mr. F. V. Harthman, 13 Wyrsecourt Road, Liverpool 12. Home Stn 8763, Office, Simonswood 3141.

Match Secretary (Inter-city matches): Mr. W. S. Bent, 158 Stuart Road, Liverpool 20. Phone: AN 1960.

Club secretaries should note that certain ranking lists were not accepted at the recent Management Committee review.



# MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE STATEMENT

THE Management Committee at their meeting on July 8, declined the applications of the 15th Crosby and Cheshire Lines clubs as they have power to do under rule 17. Both clubs protested and asked for the matter to be placed before the Board of Appeal, but the Committee could not agree, as this body only functions when a dispute exists over the interpretation of the rules (Rule 3).

After some further correspondence with Cheshire Lines, the matter rested and a number of their members have since joined other clubs and had their registrations accepted.

The position regarding 15th Crosby is somewhat different, as their secretary, Mr. J. Watts, saw fit to write to the President, Lancashire Association, English Association and to contact a member of the Appeals Board. Allegations were made against the Committee, the League secretary, and two members of the Committee and another club in the League.

Mr. Watts then placed the matter in the hands of a solicitor, who wrote to the Secretary on August 9 threatening further action if the Committee did not accept Crosby into the League. A reply was sent drawing attention to Rule 17 and asking that allegations contained in letters to the English Association and the League be withdrawn, and deprecating the allegations made to the secretary of a member club, all of which were unfounded, and stating we were prepared to accept service of any proceedings.

On September 20 registration forms were received from four members of Crosby, including Mr. Watts, but the Committee decided to hold them in abeyance until the position of the legal action had been clarified and they were informed accordingly.

Mr. Watts replied on September 22 that Crosby did not propose to pursue legal action. The Committee again asked Mr. Watts to withdraw the allegations made, and the other three members were asked to disassociate themselves with any allegations, as the Committee felt that Mr. Watts may have

acted on instructions from his members. On the other hand he may have taken these actions on behalf of the club but without their knowledge or instructions.

The Committee invited Mr. Watts to meet them on September 29, but he replied "that even if such a meeting would be of benefit, he had another engagement." Meetings were suggested on the 7, 14 or 21 October, which-ever suited him best, but he still declined.

On October 13 the League secretary received letters signed by the other three Crosby members concerned, stating that the actual correspondence was not seen by them, and that any allegations were made without their knowledge or consent, and that although two of them had approached Mr. Watts to attend a meeting to see the correspondence, he had refused.

The three registrations of Messrs. Delamere, Hand and Scarisbrick were subsequently accepted by the Committee.

## Old Enthusiasm Missing

IT seems only a matter of weeks since we were putting away our bats and another season had ended. All too soon our glorious summer ended and we were once more in the throes of table tennis, meeting old friends, and, I hope, making new ones, and all doing battle in a friendly manner.

This season I am sorry to see that we have only one women's division. What has happened? Are we women no longer as enthusiastic as we used to be? It would appear so because the standard of play does not seem as high as it was a few years ago.

At the moment there are two teams fighting it out at the top of the table—Bohemians and Anfield. The former still have their old stalwarts in Moya Jones, Muriel Willcox and May Alcock,

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but have had to replace Chris Gleed, who was married during the summer, and Daisy Mezey, who has left the district. But their replacements are not letting them down and they are still undefeated.

Anfield also hold an unbeaten record but they have strengthened their team by the inclusion of Beryl Waterson. I certainly agree Beryl is a tower of strength to any team, and with the very able backing of Ita Howley, Reg Royale and Pauline Lawrenson, great things are expected this season at Beech Road.

### Settling In

And now what of teams such as Balfour and Rafters? Balfour, I think, have a strong side and will certainly need watching. Now that the season is under way they seem to be settling in.

Rafters are without the ex-May twins as yet but they have only had one defeat so no doubt they will worry some of us before long.

Bibby's are another team who struck terror in our hearts a couple of seasons ago, but this term, apart from Muriel Bannister and Joan Brown, they are much weaker.

Struggling at the bottom of the table are Linnets, but as they have lost the services of several of their players, this, so early in the season, is not to be wondered at. However, let us hope that as time goes on they do better for undoubtedly they enjoy their matches—which is something of considerable importance these days when sometimes, in our keenness to win, we are not always true sportsmen.

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There was an amusing incident in the Fifth Division Dunlop v Bootle Y.M. B match at Speke. Sam Bennett was umpiring one of the sets when he fell off the chair and disappeared behind the canvas which surrounds the playing area. Moral to this, of course is: Sit on a chair as it was meant to be sat on.

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Congratulations to Trevor Brown, of Bohemians, and Jack Grant, of Oakhill, both of whom entered the state of matrimony a week or so before the season began.

# Clearing the Nomads Air

By J. D. LOUGHREY

AN interesting comment has been noted recently with regard to the selection of Nomads sides this season, and so far as can be judged it has been widely voiced. The rough substance of this report suggests that the wearing of the Red Triangle is of no small assistance in receiving favourable notice when sides are being selected.

A number of points are raised by this comment, but in an effort to be constructive, one aspect can be covered with advantage. At the handbook meeting one of the Nomads committee was waiting throughout the evening for club secretaries to hand in the names of youngsters worthy of trial for possible selection. The total number put forward in a League approaching 1,000 members was twelve, which could possibly suggest there was a degree of apathy or, indeed, active disagreement with the whole scheme.

Although this certainly was a disappointing total, arrangements were made for a trial, which, thanks to the kindness of the Linnets Club, was arranged at their headquarters. Held a few weeks ago, the small band of twelve was further whittled down so that we had five youngsters representing the entire potential talent of the League.

In two cases there was adequate excuse for non-attendance, but it does not say a great deal for the enthusiasm of secretaries in the first place, or for the youngsters of our League in the second, that after officials have done all in their power to provide opportunity, so very few feel it worth while to take advantage.

Clearly, a higher proportion of Nomads players are likely to come from youth clubs and the like, and that being so the Y.M.C.A.'s are likely to be well represented. As to why other youth organisations are not so well served, it might be as well to ask the secretaries of one or two.

Last season there was one glaring example, when a youth club was having a splendid season, and despite a personal request, no names were put forward. At last in desperation, from their number one was selected, and after several efforts, actually turned out for the Nomads. At the end of the evening he made a request not to be chosen again.

It is not surprising therefore that a degree of despair attacks those responsible for selection, and efforts are concentrated where enthusiasm is known to exist. Indeed few would argue that it is the only correct policy if results are to be achieved.

The Management and Nomads Committees are fully aware that there must be a number of youngsters playing this season who would richly benefit from opportunities provided by the Nomads side, but it is impossible to cover the entire League unless secretaries give wholehearted support. That they have not done so far this season is perfectly clear.

I would like therefore to make a further appeal, as was made at the meeting a few weeks ago, for promising youngsters to be nominated so that their performances can be noted, both in actual play and on results. If no further help is given, then perhaps those who have noted that Y.M. players are frequently seen in the Nomads sides, will understand the reasons and why there is unlikely to be any great change.

In passing, two of the trialists at Linnets have subsequently been chosen, and a further nominee is also to play for the Nomads in the near future.

The side has made a bright start to the season, with two 8-2 victories against Rafters A and Lucem, though the latter were very weakened indeed.

In the first match John Cain made a sensational debut, for when called upon at the last possible moment, he managed to beat M. Morison in two straight. This from a youngster who had only played his first League match ten days before, was quite a performance, and while he has nearly everything to learn about the game, it was a most encouraging start.

Ian Rogerson is now holding down the number 1 position and a comparison with his form of last season shows what a big advance he has made.

As usual there is difficulty in finding adequate strength at 2 and 3 while giving the more inexperienced a chance at 4 and 5, but no doubt if last season repeats itself, it will not be long before some of these are capable of making their mark higher in the order.

# League Suffer Great Loss

THE Liverpool League, within the space of five days, lost two well-known officials and players.

George S. Burgoyne, the secretary of the Osterley Club, was playing for the A team against Lofters B at Waterloo on October 26, and having completed his second set, which went to three games, he collapsed and was dead on the arrival of the ambulance.

Mr. Burgoyne succeeded Mr. Harthman as the secretary of his club in 1947, when they had been relegated to the East Region, and during the past eight years he worked diligently and faithfully for Osterley, and was an ever-present at League meetings and functions.

He was approached a couple of years ago to stand for the Management Committee, but declined as he wished to continue as a club secretary, and felt he could not do justice to both positions. Our loss was Osterley's gain. We extend our sympathy to his sister and other members of the family.

Jack E. Neill passed away on October 31 after an illness which had lasted nearly two years, of which practically 18 months was spent in Aintree Regional Hospital.

Jack was North Region secretary from 1936 until the outbreak of war, during which he was with the Home Guard and afterwards with the Cadet Corps of the 5th Kings Liverpool Regiment, holding the rank of captain. He rejoined us as North Region

secretary in 1950, and founded the Lofters Club in 1951.

He started his table tennis career with the old L.M.S. Recs Club and the other clubs he was associated with were Nelta (which he founded with Joe and May Alcock) and Sundene. In the years before the war he was interested in the Bootle and Waterloo tennis tournaments, run on behalf of the hospitals, but his main interest lay in table tennis, and woe betide anyone who said or did anything against his beloved North Region.

We who sat with him on the Management Committee for so many years, found him a fearless fighter, who did not mind ploughing a lonely furrow if he thought he was right, but was nevertheless open to conviction. I had many tussles with him, and even when he was in hospital he used to go for me as soon as he saw me, but I knew by the twinkle in his eye that he realised there was some simple explanation of the points he raised. He used to hit hard, but I never found him unfair, and we shall miss his wise counsel and pertinent questions.

He bore his incapacity during these last few months with more fortitude than I would have thought possible in one who had been so active, but he was helped by the devoted care and nursing of his wife since he returned home last April.

To Mrs. Neill and his daughter Jean we extend our heartfelt sympathy in their loss.—W.S.

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# SECOND ROUND CUP DRAWS

The following are the draws for the second rounds of the four cups. All matches to be played during the week commencing December 5, 1955, on the table of the first-named club.

## Readman Cup

Litherland v Rafters B  
Linnets v Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A  
Bohemians A v Bath Street  
Rafters v Balfour A  
Raters A v Liverpool Y.M.C.A.  
Victoria Park v Balfour  
Oakhill A v Osterley  
Anfield v Oakhill

## Rumjahn Cup

Osterley v Oakhill B  
L.P.A.S. v Aigburth  
Balfour B v Linnets A  
Rafters B v Panto  
Anfield C or I.C.I. v Dunlop

## Rumjahn Cup—continued

L.P.A.S. A v Waterloo Park A  
Victoria Park B v Lofters  
Waterloo Park v Liverpool Y.M. B

## Hyde Cup

Litherland B v Dunlop A  
Co-op v Brenka A  
Douglas Y.C. or Waterloo Park B  
v Liverpool Y.M. B or Osterley A  
Lucern A v Harold House  
Wavertree Labour v Layfield  
Rafters C v Bath Street B  
G.L.S.C. v Florence Oxtan  
Rankin A v Bohemians C

## Bartholomew Cup

Bohemians v Bibbys  
Anfield v Aigburth  
Littlewoods v Rafters  
Linnets v Waterloo Park