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Vol. VI

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COMMENT

FROM time to time one hears the odd remark with regard to the present status arrangements in the League and it is a matter of opinion if the time has yet come to pass judgment on the success or otherwise of the important changes made in the rules eighteen months ago.

Rather surprisingly, there seems to be a strong feeling in favour of first teams only for the League, with the rest accommodated in a Central Division for A teams and the rest in an Alliance. This is extremely interesting for a modified form of this proposal was actually turned down at the special general meeting as being too radical, but it seems that this viewpoint now has its supporters.

One feature which does seem to be unpopular is the Fifth Division with its collection of B and C teams, though, in passing, the discrepancy between its best teams and those in the Fourth is now much less than twelve months ago, and is likely to lessen still further. One idea concerning this is to limit each club to one team per division, which has its merits, though running contrary to the radical suggestions mentioned above.

The constitution at present, runs a middle course between these two, and it is, therefore, a question of which of the three policies members wish to follow, the assumption being that no one is in favour of the old system, with its possibility of three clubs having seven teams in membership of the First Division as has actually happened.

In retrospect it does seem that the effect of eighteen months' change has been for some well-known players to transfer their affections, and new clubs reaching the top have been able to hold their own as a result. On the other hand it does not seem to have made much difference to the sections below the top two, and one's own personal view is that the Fourth and to a lesser extent the Third are well below a satisfactory standard of play generally.

This is a topic worth considering, and now is the time to decide if changes are necessary, when they can be fully discussed, ventilated in the *Digest*, and brought up as rule changes, if necessary, at the A.G.M. We invite your comments therefore, reminding you again that the columns of this journal are available and ready to receive your views on this and any other matter of interest.

THE 15th CROSBY INCIDENT

WE publish herewith letters received regarding the rejection of 15th Crosby's application for renewal of their League membership, with replies from the Management Committee. The editors have now decided, however, that no further correspondence on the subject will be published.

Sir.—The Committee's guilty conscience may have caused the publication of a "statement" about Crosby's expulsion, but as I have been picked out and attacked as the villain of the piece I must ask for the equal courtesy of your columns to defend myself.

The Committee's statement is a masterpiece of evasions and omissions. It has still not said why this expulsion was done—but dictators don't explain. Rule 17 does give the Committee some powers, but these should only be used reasonably and subject to approval by the League after explanations by the Committee.

This harsh and unfair decision was given without any notice or warning, or even reason. In committee there was no opposition or even discussion. Is that a fair and proper way to decide the fate of a club and to give it no chance of defence?

Like most table tennis players I like my own club and because I try to defend it by writing to various authorities, the Committee disapproved. My "contact with a member of the Appeals Board" was a mere notification that Crosby would be appealing. The Board, like all members, can draw its own conclusions about the Committee's refusal.

The statement carefully omits that independent arbitration by the Lancashire Association (as provided for in their rules, to which the Liverpool League is a party) was refused by the Committee.

The statement mentions "allegations about a club" as something horrible, but this was merely a chance meeting with Eric Caird, when I suggested that the two Rafter's men on the Committee might be largely responsible for Crosby's expulsion. As he later assured me otherwise, I replied in August agreeing.

The A.G.M. in May rejected proposals of heavy penalties for such minor sins as being a player short, and yet the Committee imposed the biggest possible penalty on a club of long standing in the League. Nothing was said at the A.G.M. on this matter by the Committee, which acted in the close season.

As for spreading the whole trouble by not allowing ex-Crosby players to sign for new clubs without being "disciplined," that would never have arisen in an amateur, friendly sport—if well run.

The statement talks grandly of repeated offers to my meeting the Committee "to see correspondence." What good would that do as every letter had obviously been either from me or to me? But the statement completely missed out the fact that I had already written a letter of one main sentence: "Just what phrases of mine are objected to?" to which came no answer except another kind offer for me to face all the Committee.

I still think the expulsion decision was unnecessary and vindictive, but I am not only expelled but expected to like it.

The Committee withdrew the town team from the Lancashire League without reference to the membership, and assured the September, 1954, general meeting that after a year's interval "the team would certainly go back into Division 1 where it belonged." As the team is now in Division 3 North, it might even beat Southport's second team.

The Liverpool League has not been noted since the war for star players, big crowds or successful tournaments. Is the "Mismanagement Committee" ruining the game here? By victimising players like Hand, Bamford, Delamere, Gunson, Coogan, etc., it seems so.

As a final word in this regrettable affair, may I say that the killing of the 15th Crosby club by the Management Committee will have some value if the clubs of the league take warning that

Continued on next page

what happened to Crosby may happen to any one of them—unless they take steps accordingly for the A.G.M. in May.—J. WATTS.

The Management Committee replies :—

When an appeal is going before the Board, the League Secretary notifies the three members and sends them the relevant correspondence, and it is no business of the appellants to single out ONE of the members of this Board with any notification. Independent arbitration was NOT refused by the Management. The Lancashire Association were not prepared to discuss the matter when Mr. Watts had placed it in the hands of a solicitor.

When the Committee asked Mr. Watts to meet them, the previous correspondence was not mentioned. The request to meet the Committee and "see the correspondence" was made by two members of the Crosby Club, as stated in the November issue.

Extract from letter sent to Mr. Watts solicitors on September 2: "The Committee desire that your client should withdraw the allegations contained in a letter sent to the E.T.T.A. on July 23, and also in the letter sent to the undersigned on the same date. It is also deprecated that your client should have thought fit to make allegations to the secretary of a member club against two members of that club, who are also members of the Management Committee, and which are completely unfounded."

No statement was ever made that the "Liverpool team would go back into Division 1 of the L. and C. League where it belonged" as such decisions can only be taken by the Lancashire Executive. We were placed in Division 3 and could probably have earned quick promotion by regularly playing the three Rumjahns, but we are endeavouring to produce star players by introducing youngsters in the team, and they are gaining experience against such teams as Southport A, viz Bamford, Watts and Shaw, whom they met at Bootle Y.M.C.A. last month.

Since the war Ron Rumjahn and Bill Pierce (junior) have received international honours, with Hand and the May twins receiving county badges.

We have staged six events at the Philharmonic Hall and five at the Stadium, either Merseyside finals or international matches, and on two occasions had the house full, with people turned away.

The Merseyside entries have been the best outside London, including as many as 26 internationals, with playing conditions comparable with anywhere in the Country. So much for star players, big crowds or successful tournaments.

No victimisation of players has taken place. Hand, Delamere and Scarisbrick are at present playing in the League. Bamford, Coogan and Gunson have not applied for registration.

Sir.—I read with considerable interest the Management Committee statement in the November issue. To my mind this added nothing to the facts as generally known; nor did it afford any explanation which might have cleared many puzzled minds.

May I through your columns, ask the following questions:—

1.—Where, in the constitution of the League, is it stated that membership of a club ceases. What date does this membership cease?

2.—Why do the Management Committee keep in their possession guarantee fund money if the clubs are no longer members?

3.—Why, in the two recent cases, were the clubs concerned allowed no appeal?

These rules may be "clear to the minds of the Management," but they leave lesser mortals, well, we just cannot find these rules.

Rule 18 states that players' registrations cease but there is no rule terminating the membership of a club.

May I add for the benefit of all your readers that, under these conditions, each and every club who offend the susceptibilities of the Management may be dumped in the ash-can. Your No. 3 may commit *lese majeste* by tucking his trousers into his socks, so you get expelled—sorry, "application refused." You won't be told why, so really the Management Committee need no excuse.

Continued on next page

The Management Committee have exceeded the powers granted to them and have acted dictatorially under non-existent rules. It is high time that they had their wings clipped in many directions and it is up to the clubs to clip them by so reframing the rules that they cannot be twisted to suit the desires of our worthy committee.

If, as I hope, proposals are made at the A.G.M. to amend rules and to severely curtail the dictatorial inclinations of the Management Committee, let each and every club secretary keep in mind that next time it may be his own club that is stabbed in the back by the Committee.

By so writing I have now committed the unforgivable sin—*lese majeste majeste*—treason—criticised the mighty! But let it be remembered that this is my own opinion, not my club's policy. So when I have been stripped of my pumps and bat and publicly (sorry, very privately) expelled, please do not visit my personal crime upon the Linnets as a club.—
J. R. GREEN (Linnets).

The Management Committee reply:
No comment.

Congratulations to Mrs. Stamp on winning the table tennis tournament at the Clifton Hotel, St. Annes-on-Sea, during the Christmas holidays. There is no truth in the rumour that Miss Kay Benson, who was there on Christmas night, acted as coach; nor is there any significance in the fact that our secretary was the umpire for the men's and women's finals—he was the only one who could count over 20.

Peter Rumjahn writes:—What is most discouraging in the First Division; and reflects the strength of Liverpool table tennis, is the lack of talented youth coming to the fore. Potential champions should bud between 17 and 19. If the talent is not good enough to top the averages at that age, then the prospects look dismal for the League for a few years to come. I have taken the average age of the first twelve best averages in the First Division and find that it is 29—a poor reflection on our youthful aspirants.

IS NEW SET-UP NEEDED?

Sir.—I feel that at this stage of the season I must pass some comments on the situation which exists in Division 5.

You will appreciate no doubt, that only three of the present teams in the division—Dunlop, Waterloo Park A and ourselves—can possibly gain promotion. As Dunlop are heading the table, unless they lose all their remaining matches they are virtually certain to go up. But it is also on the cards that either Waterloo Park or ourselves, or both, will be relegated.

Anyone who has played serious table tennis will know how big a part nerves play in a match where the points at stake are of importance to the league position of the teams involved. Members of B and C teams playing in our division are never affected in this manner and consequently the players approach the game either with a "free" frame of mind or a couldn't care less attitude. Therefore matches are won or lost where under normal circumstances the result could be different.

On several occasions there has been endless chatter during the whole match. Although efforts have been made to stop it little or no notice has been taken. Possibly in the same circumstances I would do exactly the same, and almost without fail when a player has played his two sets he departs—sometimes before the interval has arrived.

Who can blame these players for this approach to the game? I sincerely hope that the Management Committee will reconsider the entire set-up of the League at the next A.G.M.

In conclusion a word to Jim Green. Stop dreaming up drivelt of new fangled bats and concentrate on dreaming up a new heating system for the Linnets clubroom. It was the worst conditions I have ever played under in the Liverpool League. Ours are pretty bad but we are at least tied by church regulations at which we are hammering all the time. Mr. Green, we had to wrap up that night.—BERT ARISS (Warbreck Moor)

Jim Green replies:—We too, are tied by church regulations. We have already spent a goodly sum on the clubroom and will do more when our finances allow us.

Records Take A Bump

WITH the Readman Cup nearing its final stages, clubs will now be able to concentrate on their league efforts. There is special hard work to be done at the bottom of the division if teams are to avoid relegation.

With no Stamp Cup to fight for this season, we have only the Readman as a diversion from league matches. So far the cup matches have produced no surprises and the draw has worked out to give Rafters a semi-final against Linnets or Y.M.C.A. and the other between Balfour and Anfield. It looks as if the final will be a repetition of last year's when Balfour won by the odd game.

Clubs running three, four or five teams found difficulty in the pre-Christmas period in fixing up cup ties as well as league matches. There does not seem to be enough days in the week to accommodate them all. Now match secretaries can relax and concentrate on keeping their teams at full strength.

No sooner had I written about individuals with good records than I heard of several who had fallen by the wayside — Pierce losing to Rigby; Norman Jones to Stoddard, who was Anfield's lone winner; Hand to Davies in a Bohs v Balfour draw when Bruce surprisingly beat Hetherington and Vic Chesham beat Jones and Wilcock.

Interesting results in recent Readman Cup matches was that in the first meeting Bohs and Balfour drew 5-5, when Davies beat Hand and lost to Harris; Hand beat Jones, Hetherington beat Harris and Holdsworth, and Chesham beat Jones and Gaulton, who was also beaten by Ken Jones.

In the replay Hand beat Gaulton and Chesham beat Wilcock to be Bohs' only winners in spite of changing their order.

In the Victoria Park v Balfour tie, won 7-3 by the latter, Tony Smith, playing No. 4, beat Wong and Gaulton and Lijinsky beat Wilcock to gain Park's three.

BATH STREET CHALLENGE

TWO unbeaten records have been broken in recent weeks, although one of them went in a Readman Cup match with a First Division side.

In the league match between African Oil and Waterloo Dock, Jack Seddon beat Frank Varty 21-17, 10-21, 21-17, to end Varty's unbeaten run of 23 sets. African Oil won the match 7-3 and so handed the wooden spoon to their opponents.

The match incidentally, started at 6.30 and all players were away by 9.10. Both these teams are only too willing to start early, so if any future opponents are interested please tell the secretary concerned.

I may point out that this early start is far better than starting at 8 p.m. as several matches have done and meant players rushing for the last bus at 11 p.m. or later.

The other unbeaten record to go was that of Arthur Taylor, when he lost to Norman Jones, of Balfour, in the third round of the Readman Cup. Taylor won the first game 21-18 and led 20-17 in the second, but Jones fought back well to win 22-20 and then take the third 21-19.

Arthur did, however, beat les Davies 21-18 in the third, and although Bath Street were beaten 9-1 they were by no means disgraced for five of the ten sets went to three games.

Bootle Y.M., whom I confidently tipped as champions, drew four matches on the run to allow Bath Street to get within a point of them. That was something I did not bargain for and the race now appears wide open for Bootle have to play Bath Street away—a match that could well decide the championship.

The battle to avoid relegation should be as fierce as the fight for the championship. At the time of writing Waterloo Dock are bottom with five points; African Oil have seven and Oakhill A and Bootle Y.M. A have nine each.

My appeal for news has been answered by one letter. I am grateful to the sender but sincerely hope that it is just the start of a flood of both letters and telephone calls.

LEAGUE TABLES

up to and including 21st January, 1955

First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour	13	12	0	1	110	20	25
Bohemians	13	10	1	2	89	41	22
Rafters	13	10	2	1	88	42	21
Victoria Park	13	7	3	3	76	54	17
Oakhill	13	5	5	3	69	61	13
Linnets	13	5	5	3	68	62	13
Anfield	13	4	4	5	63	67	13
Liverp'l Y.M.	13	5	5	3	63	67	13
Balfour A	13	2	8	3	41	89	7
Nomads	13	2	10	1	44	86	5
Rafters A	12	2	10	0	30	90	4
Lucem	12	0	11	1	28	92	1

Fifth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour B	13	11	1	1	88	42	23
Dunlop	13	11	1	1	82	48	23
Vic. Park B	13	8	3	2	76	54	18
Rafters A	13	6	4	3	78	52	15
Oakhill B	13	5	4	4	68	62	14
Bootle Y.M. B	13	5	5	3	64	66	13
Anfield B	13	4	5	4	65	65	12
Bohemians B	13	5	6	2	65	65	12
Vic. Park C	13	3	6	4	56	74	10
Warbreck M.	13	3	8	2	55	75	8
W'loo Park A	13	2	8	3	55	75	7
Balfour C	13	0	12	1	28	102	1

Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bootle Y.M.	13	9	0	4	87	43	22
Bath Street	13	9	1	3	91	39	21
Litherland	13	9	4	0	72	58	18
L'pool Y.M. A	13	5	4	4	62	68	14
Anfield A	13	5	5	3	62	68	13
Bohemians A	13	5	5	4	64	66	12
Vic. Park A	13	4	5	6	64	66	12
Oakhill A	13	5	7	1	61	69	11
Cadwa	13	3	5	5	59	71	11
Bootle Y.M. A	13	1	5	7	55	75	9
African Oil	13	2	8	3	57	73	7
Waterloo Dock	13	1	8	4	46	84	6

Sixth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
L'pool Y.M. B	12	12	0	0	106	14	24
Bath Street A	11	9	2	0	77	33	18
Oakhill C	12	7	2	3	72	48	17
Fairlawn	12	7	4	1	70	50	15
Cadwa B	12	5	4	3	57	63	13
Dom. Mission	12	4	5	3	56	64	11
Eng. Elec. A	11	4	6	1	47	63	9
Anfield C	12	4	7	1	45	75	9
Rankin O.B.	11	2	8	1	44	66	5
Lofters A	11	1	8	2	35	75	4
Linnets B	12	1	10	1	31	89	3

Third Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Panto	13	8	2	3	81	49	19
L.P.A.S.	13	9	3	1	72	58	19
Lofters	13	8	3	2	74	56	18
English Electric	13	6	4	3	72	58	15
Maghull	13	7	5	1	69	61	15
Osterley	13	6	4	3	66	64	15
I.C.I.	12	5	5	3	65	55	13
Linacre	12	5	4	3	61	59	13
Waterloo Park	13	4	6	3	64	66	11
Beauchair	13	3	8	2	58	72	8
Linnets A	13	2	9	2	48	82	6
Wavertree	13	0	11	2	40	90	2

Women's Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bohemians	13	11	0	2	98	32	24
Anfield	12	10	0	2	92	28	22
Rafters	13	9	1	3	96	34	21
Balfour	13	8	5	0	76	54	16
Waterloo Park	13	7	4	2	74	56	16
Bibbys	13	7	5	1	68	62	15
Oakhill	13	6	5	2	65	65	14
Littlewoods	13	5	6	2	63	67	12
Osterley	13	2	10	1	46	84	5
Aigburth	12	2	10	0	33	87	4
Cadwa	12	0	9	3	36	84	3
Linnets	12	0	12	0	13	107	0

Fourth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Cadwa A	11	10	0	1	81	21	21
Litherland A	10	7	2	1	64	36	15
Aigburth	11	6	1	4	66	44	16
Everton Y.M.	11	6	4	1	64	46	13
Brenka	11	5	3	3	62	48	13
R.A.F.A.	10	5	4	1	54	46	11
Panto A	11	4	4	3	59	51	11
L.P.A.S. A	12	4	6	2	55	65	10
African Oil A	11	3	7	1	45	65	7
Tech. Students	12	2	9	1	47	73	5
Wavertree A	12	0	12	0	13	107	0

North Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Litherland B	12	9	1	2	89	31	20
Bootle Y.M. C	12	10	2	0	80	40	20
W'loo Park B	13	9	3	1	87	43	18
Litherland C	13	9	4	0	85	45	18
Brenka A	12	8	3	1	75	45	17
Bath Street B	13	7	3	3	77	53	17
Co-op	13	6	5	2	70	60	14
Maghull A	13	4	7	2	58	72	10
R.A.A.F.	12	3	8	1	40	80	7
Douglas Y.C.	12	1	9	2	32	88	4
Orrell	12	1	10	1	32	88	3
Co-op A	13	1	12	0	25	105	2

LEAGUE TABLES

South Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Harold House	13	10	1	2	89	41	22
Rafters C	13	9	0	4	88	42	22
Sefton General	13	9	4	0	86	44	18
Bedford	13	7	2	4	76	54	18
L'pool Y.M. C	13	6	5	2	70	60	14
Florence Ox.	13	7	6	0	69	61	14
Lucem A	12	5	5	2	66	54	12
Dunlop A	13	5	6	2	63	67	12
Aigburth A	12	2	6	4	52	68	8
Lussac	13	2	7	4	51	79	8
W'tree Labour	13	2	9	2	44	86	6
African Oil B	13	0	13	0	16	114	0

Central Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
G.L.S.C.	12	12	0	0	98	22	24
Rankin A	12	8	1	3	76	44	19
Cadwa C	13	7	2	4	86	44	18
Ebani	13	7	4	2	73	57	16
Leyfield	12	5	4	3	61	59	13
L.P.A.S. B	13	6	7	0	64	66	12
Bohemians C	11	3	3	5	57	53	11
R.A.F. Mov.	12	4	5	3	56	64	11
Osterley A	13	3	6	4	53	77	10
Lofters B	12	4	7	1	57	63	9
Tech. Stud. A	13	1	11	1	36	94	3
Anfield D	12	1	11	0	23	97	2

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Deadline for copy for the February issue of the Digest is Monday,

February 6

MANAGEMENT NOTES

The semi-final ties in the various cup competitions are as follows:—

READMAN CUP

Balfour v Anfield
Rafters v Linnets

HYDE CUP

Rafters C v Litherland B
G.L.S.C. v Leyfield

RUMJAHN CUP

Balfour B v Osterley
Panto or Lofters v L.P.A.S.

BARTHOLOMEW CUP

Waterloo Park v Anfield
Bohemians v Rafters

The venues and dates have yet to be fixed.

During the Christmas break several clubs have held parties, which, in addition to being a diversion from table tennis, enables players to join in party games. This is an ideal way of getting to know other members and finding out their hidden talents and pursuits and of meeting parents and friends. It is this sociability which needs encouraging among clubs, especially at league-sponsored matches and social functions.

Linacre Wins Opened Door

BY patient and consistent form Lofters have taken over the leadership of the division, but the jump which put them out in front must be attributed to Linacre, who, hitting their best form of the season, scored decisive away victories over Panto (6-4) and Police (9-1), thus opening the door for Lofters.

This Lofters team will now take some shifting, with Bill Askew and Beryl Waterson in excellent form and ably backed by Howard, McDonald and Nan Lamb, while in D. Crawford they have a useful reserve to call on for any position.

At the other end of the table Waver-tree and Linnets hold the unenviable positions and there seems little hope for them, so far are they behind. Nevertheless, I have on good authority (Jim Green himself) that Linnets' losing days are over. They hope to sign Roach of Balfour and believe that this new strength will lift them away from the bottom. They certainly started 1956 with a good win—7-3 over Waterloo Park—so beware.

Waterloo, however, are still in the doldrums and I cannot see them leaving the foot of the table. Without Siddall's games their average would be a sorry one indeed.

At the halfway stage it gives some idea of how close the teams are in strength, for only five points separate nine of them. Who would therefore, hazard a guess as to the final outcome?

We will be well represented in the semi-final of the Rumjahn Cup for we have three representatives. Police and Osterley are already there and, as I write, Lofters and Panto have to meet again to decide who joins them. We are therefore assured of at least one finalist.

Jim Green's challenge from the Fourth Division has been accepted and a tentative date has been agreed to. Our division has many outstanding players to call on and when the final selection has been made I have no doubt that the five will give a good account of themselves.

Fourth Division

by Jim Green

SMITH AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

THERE have only been one week's matches since my last article, so you will appreciate that this must be a lot of bits rather than a coherent article.

Jim Robinson captained our team to victory over the Fifth Division at Linnets on December 5. The team selected was Ian Morris (Cadwa), Peter Turtle (Everton Y.M.C.A.), Kevin Fenerty (Brenka) and Robinson and Len Small (R.A.F.A.), but Morris was away from home and at the last possible moment, and without being able to change, a laddie named J. Smith (Brenka) found himself playing at No. 1 where he beat Peter Evans (Balfour) and only narrowly lost to Les Mason (Dunlop).

While we congratulate all the players, I would like in particular to both congratulate and thank friend Smith for filling in without hesitation. A little more of this spirit and Liverpool table tennis would not be wallowing in the mire as it is.

Bob Mason has selected a Third Division team to do battle with us at Panto on Monday, January 30, and I hope to see a few of our players there to give the lads some moral support. The

same team will turn out for us, and again Jim Robinson has consented to captain the side. Although I am playing in the Third Division, on that occasion I am solidly a Fourth Division supporter.

No doubt many of you think you could have picked a stronger team, but there are only five places, and these boys have been chosen, so come along and give them your moral aid.

The leading averages for the first half of the season show Peter Turtle heads the list with 100 per cent., followed by D. O'Reilly (Cadwa) 93.7, C. Jones (Cadwa) 83.3, J. Robinson (R.A.F.A.) 81.8, R. Austin (Cadwa) 78.5, L. Ireland (Cadwa) 77.7, K. Hughes (Aigburth) 77.2, and K. Ainsworth 75.

It is interesting to note that of the first six, four are from Cadwa, which superiority is mirrored in their league position. Yet none of these boys have played in all matches. Ireland, who has played in nine, is the most regular attender, and it speaks well for the Cadwa club that their reserves are strong enough for the team to maintain the top position, although seldom, if ever, is the strongest team available. You need reserves to win divisions.

Conflicting Results

IT seems fairly obvious that at this, the halfway stage of the season, the championship of our division will rest between Dunlop, Balfour B and Victoria Park B.

It is interesting to see that Victoria Park B beat Dunlop; that Dunlop beat Balfour and that Balfour beat Victoria Park B. It shows that with these three evenly balanced anything can happen before April. I can't, however, see any other team challenging them, but I am glad that it is not the one-horse race it was last year.

The Victoria Park B and Balfour B match was a topsy-turvy affair. First Balfour were three up; then Victoria Park rallied to become four-three up. Finally, Balfour picked up to win 6-4.

There is quite a lot of controversy about Victoria Park's table. There are those who claim that it should be worth two sets lead to the Park at any time. I agree that it is not as fast as it was two or three years ago, but I always enjoy myself there in spite of the dead spots.

Our inter-divisional match with the Fourth Division at the Linnets club was a most enjoyable game in spite of the arctic conditions and the dripping water at one end of the table. One or two players had the misfortune to fall over at the wet end and I am rather surprised that the Linnets committee have done nothing about this.

Some good table tennis was seen in the match, but to my mind the outstanding performance was given by Smith of Brenka, who stood in as reserve for Ian Morris. His two opponents said he was the most accurate hitter they have played against to date.

I must thank Jimmy Robinson (R.A.F.A.) for the able manner in which he collected his team at short notice rather than let me down by having to cancel the match. Division Four won 7-3 and I should like to thank the Division Five players for their prompt acceptance to play.

I would also like to appeal to players generally to stay to the end of a match. I have noticed several players have made a habit of going immediately they have completed their two sets. To my mind it is the height of bad manners.

HONOURS GO TO THE Y.M.C.A.

PRIDE of place this month, must go to Des Loughrey and his Y.M. boys. Apart from carrying all before them in our division, they went to Division 3 and beat Waterloo Park 6-4 in the Rumjahn Cup, Bill Bent winning his two sets to clinch the match.

Women, unfortunately, seem to be a vanishing race in our table tennis world, so it gives me pleasure to mention Mrs. J. McGrath, of Fairlawn, who is helping to keep her team up with the leaders. Miss Evans also has the odd game with the team. They did well to take a point from Oakhill, Carter winning two sets and Miss Evans getting a valuable one. Miss Williams was also in the Fairlawn team.

Mrs. I. Crofter has been putting in the odd game for Cadwa B, who have not lost since I mentioned their potentialities in my last notes.

Anfield C have gained five welcome points over the holidays, Reg Gray proving that he can still win the odd set. Captain Nash is winning more than his share of games, and is generally backed up by D. Jones, Culshaw and Archer. It was surprising after the team's good performance, to see them beaten by lowly English Electric. This was mainly due to Jimmy Byrnes' return to form and winning two sets, Wilkes also won two. Culshaw was outstanding for Anfield, winning his two.

Good to see Don Crawford back in the fold at Lofters. He won two of his sides three sets at Anfield. McGowan (Rankin) had a good win over Norman Cooke, although his side lost 7-3. Moore (Domestic) won his side's two sets against Oakhill and Manchester (English Electric) was his team's sole winner against Bath Street, who won 9-1 as did Oakhill against Linnets, when Crowther was the sole winner for the latter.

On the Management Committee common sense has prevailed. I have received the score cards for the short holiday month.

(Editors' Note.—May we assure Mr. Lambert that there was a misunderstanding about the matter. In fact, the score cards last month were posted to him, but the parcel came adrift in the post.)

Happy Band of Pilgrims

SINCE my last article we have had quite a rest from table tennis and I, for one, am finding it very difficult to get back into the swing of things.

Whether this is due to the fact that we have had almost three weeks without matches, or just because the recent damp, foggy and snowy weather makes the thought of cold clubrooms most uninteresting, I do not know, but the fact remains that it is there. However, if one will play this game of ours, one must put up with the more unpleasant side of it and make the most of the rather nicer happenings.

And one of the latter came my way in the match my club played against Aigburth. This team may not be anywhere near the top of the divisional table and instead occupy a rather lowly one, but what a happy band they are.

On the night they visited Anfield they were at the top of their form, if not in table tennis at least in fun and sportsmanship. They were well and truly beaten, as no doubt they expected to be. Their only set winners were W. Ramsey, who beat D. Lewis, and R. Garner, who beat E. Gray, but their defeat did not worry them the slightest.

In fact, I think an enjoyable evening was had by all and may they spend many more happy seasons in the League.

I was rather surprised last week to hear that Balfour had lost 9-1 to the Bohemians. Certainly I think that the Bohemians are a grand team, as the records show, and I felt sure they would get their usual two points from the match. But womehow I expected Balfour to get more than one set from them, considering that earlier in the season the Smithdown Road team beat Rafters, who later took a point out of the Bohemians.

However such results as that just proves that one can never quite know what to expect in this game.

Incidentally, members of the league will be glad to know that Mother Pinky Rumjahn is back in the game, following the birth of her son about two months ago. She took her sister's place in the Rafters C team that played against Dunlop A in the South Region last week.

No doubt many players in our division will be wondering whether we are to see her soon.

BOOTLE BOY'S GREAT FIGHT

THE qualifying rounds of the Eagle and Girls National Junior tournament for the North-West area were played last Saturday at Bootle Y.M.C.A., and England international Johnny Leach was present giving help and advice to the young competitors. The junior singles were confined to boys and girls under 13, and the seniors to under 15.

There were more than 70 entrants and the Liverpool winners were Linda Hayes and Diana Foster in the girls and A. Long and Peter Keating, in the boys. They then had to meet the four winners from Nottingham last week to decide who would go to the area finals in London on February 25.

The two girls from Nottingham won rather easily, and Long lost in the third game, but the highspot of the day's play was the junior final between Peter Keating (Bootle Y.M.C.A.) and Roger Cardwell, of Notts.

The high standard of these two under-13 youngsters had to be seen to

be believed, but the Notts boy, who chewed gum throughout the game and had other mannerisms he would do well to forget, was inclined to be over-confident, which led to his ultimate downfall.

Winning the first game at 15, he was leading 20-16 in the second, and it was at this crucial point that Keating showed his fighting spirit, and with four match points against him he took the game at 22-20. He also had a match point against him in the third game, but took the game and match at 22-20.

Mr. Brian Watson, the Y.M.C.A. secretary, who has done so much over many years for the youngsters under his charge, was naturally very elated, and I have promised on behalf of the League, that everything possible will be done to help Peter between now and when he goes to London at the end of February.

W. STAMP

BIG UPHEAVAL IN TABLE

AT the start of this season I expected the region to resolve itself into a struggle between Litherland B and Waterloo Park B for the top position. During the last few weeks, however, there has been a considerable upheaval in the table and the final result is now much more open, although at the time of writing Bootle Y.M.C.A. C and Litherland B are well situated, having matches in hand of their rivals.

The biggest surprise was caused by Waterloo Park dropping six points in four matches over the Christmas period, losing 8-2 to Brenka A, 6-4 to Litherland C and 6-4 to Bootle Y.M.C.A. C.

The Y.M.C.A.'s victory was all the more creditable in that owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding concerning match nights, they only arrived at 8.30 p.m. with four players, including an untried reserve, but still managed to obtain both points. Waterloo Park are to be congratulated on playing the match when they could have easily claimed it. The teams in the North Region, I am pleased to say, prefer to play a match, win or lose, rather than claim it under the League rules. The fight for points comes second to the game itself.

Turning to the other end of the table, Douglas Y.C. have won their first match, so that all the newcomers to

the region this season have had at least one win.

Maghull A have had a lean time recently. After a good start they lost seven successive matches. They have now found the winning road again, and I hope this will encourage them to greater things.

A. Reid, of Bath Street B, still holds his 100 per cent record, having won all 16 league games he has played.

It is not fair to pass comment on the Litherland C and Brenka A match due to the distraction of an American Forces Christmas party in the next room. It sounded like a good party, but table tennis is not improved when played to a background of hot music.

There are two points I would like to bring to the notice of players. One is the appalling disregard of the service rule, and the other is the way some players dress for matches. Both these points are always being mentioned in the magazine, but I have seen so many bad examples of them recently, I make no apologies for bringing them up again.

A New Year resolution I suggest is: correct services and no more fancy ties and waistcoats.

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Neck and Neck for Title

THE halfway stages sees a neck and neck race between Rafters C and Harold House at the top of the table, the former beating the House 7-3. The pair have a five points advantage over Sefton General and Bedford.

Individual records to date show Mrs. K. Casselman (Rafters C) still holding her 100 per cent record, having won all her 26 sets. Other records are:—

	P.	W.	L.
Gallagher (Rafters).....	18	16	2
Butterworth (Rafters ...)	20	17	3
Shone (Lucem)	26	22	4
Jones (Y.M. C)	16	13	3
Hambleton (Wav. Lab.)	28	22	6
Cohen (H. House)	26	19	7
Payne (Dunlop)	22	16	6
Connelly (Dunlop).....	18	13	5
Linsner (F. Oxtou)	28	20	8
Kettle (Sefton G.)	24	17	7
Caldwell (Rafters)	20	14	6
Al. Cohen (H. House)	22	15	7

The match I saw was Dunlop beating Lucem in a 7-3 victory, but for me the match was spoilt by a terrific din from a radiogram in an adjoining room playing dance music at full volume. The players themselves, however, said it didn't bother them.

P. Connelly and P. Shone started the battle, the result going to the visiting captain after a point for point struggle which ended at 29-27 in the second set. Dunlop then went on to win the next seven sets, the most outstanding of which was Mrs. Connelly (Dunlop) beating the hard hitting W. Griffiths. F. Payne also played a good game to beat Shone in straight sets.

Connelly deserve a mention also for his win over W. Griffiths after losing the first game, but the thing most obvious in this game was the contrast in playing attire. Connelly in his straight-from-the-office clothes, complete with collar and tie (poor show this) and Griffiths emaculate in blue silk shirt and shorts. It's a pity a few more, especially the younger players, don't follow his example.

Shone tells me he has signed on for his team the Rev. F. Cartwright, vicar of St. Mary's, Edge Hill, who played for them before the war and also played for

Continued at foot of next column

AWAY OUT ON THEIR OWN

LOOKING back over the first half of the season, it would appear obvious as to who will finish at the head of the table. Still undefeated and most of their matches taken at 9-1 or 8-2, makes it clear that G.L.S.C. are our strongest side.

It is good, however, to see the youngsters at Rankin and Cadwa keeping close behind the leaders. They should do even better in the second half with the experience they have already gained.

At the other end of the table, Anfield and Technical Students are battling along. At the time of writing each has only one win to their credit. Each season I feel that the Students could do better with just a little more concentrated effort. Against Leyfield they lost four sets in the third game, and against Rankin five in the third.

The two teams I am surprised to see in their present positions are Police and R.A.F. Movements. I expected both to be nearer the top.

We have quite a number of women playing in our region this season, due no doubt to the loss of the women's second division, but only one of them has managed to maintain an average of more than 70 per cent success, namely Mrs. M. Alcock, of Bohemians, with 72 per cent.

Only two players remain with 100 per cent records. They are D. Grant (G.L.S.C.) and F. Hampson (R.A.F. Movements) but I know that Hampson is not expecting to keep his record much longer. Indeed, it may well have gone by the time you read this.

As you probably know there are no regional tournaments this season and neither are there any inter-regional matches. I am sure, however, that the Central would be only too willing to take up any challenge (on a friendly basis) from the South or North, if such should be forthcoming.

Liverpool twenty years ago, no doubt many of the older players will remember him.

Welcome back, vicar; also Dick Burge, another old stalwart from Cheshire Lines who has signed for Sefton General.

A Nomads Criticism Answered

By J. D. LOUGHREY

AFTER a time lag which led one to believe that the Nomads nomination appeal had fallen on deaf ears, it is pleasant to record that in the past week or so a number of names have been put forward, though it is a curious fact that in one case only was the nomination made by anyone directly connected with the club.

The Nomads Sub-committee will be considering these names in a few days and it is likely that some of them will be appearing in the side before long.

One of the difficulties in selecting the side has been in finding a No. 2 sufficiently strong to hold his own, and the problem has recently been made more acute because J. Davies (Liverpool Y.M.) has had to drop out because of impending examinations. Brian Crolley (Bootle Y.M.) has filled the gap quite well, and he might make claim to be the most improved player in the side this season.

There have been some disappointments, but one success which made up for most of these was the victory of Les Gumery over Fred Cuff in the recent Anfield match. Gumery had played once or twice previously without achieving anything startling, but this result gives weight to the views of several who regard him as quite a prospect.

From time to time it may appear that players who have clearly serious claim for selection are apparently being

overlooked by the Sub-committee and occasional comment has been heard on these lines. It should be borne in mind, however, that there are a great number of factors other than ability, governing selection and all these have to be remembered when sides are being selected.

Firstly, there have been cases of players not wishing to be selected while able to turn out for their own teams, while others are not available on Friday evenings because of night schools or other reasons.

Then the Committee have to make their own minds up as to the prospects of the player, and I am betraying no secret that enthusiasm counts for a great deal when decisions are being reached. Some youngsters fell down badly in this respect when the Summer coaching was in progress, and by their partial or complete absence without reason have virtually ended any hope of being included in any League projects which are taking place or may do in the future.

The correct approach to the game is a final consideration that must not be forgotten, and when all these matters are gone into, it is believed that the answer will be found to any apparent neglect of a young player who might be doing well this season but who has not been seen playing for the Nomads.

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BLOW TO YOUTH POLICY

THERE is no doubt that the policy of "youth to the fore" which the Liverpool selectors have adopted in regard to their Lancashire and Cheshire League matches this season, received a severe blow when the Rogerson-Mulholland-Truman combination went down by 7-3 to Southport A at Bootle Y.M.C.A. last month.

The visitors, who had lost all their other matches, turned out former Welsh international Fred Bamford and veteran Joe Watts for the first—and perhaps, only—match of the season. Even so, Liverpool should have earned at least a point for in the first set of the evening the experience of Bamford enabled him to pull back an 8-21, 5-15, deficit to beat Mullholland 8-21, 21-19, 21-19.

This was followed by Darrell Shaw's victory over Ian Rogerson, an unexpected success to which Rogerson's failure to press home his advantage when he seemed to have the game won, contributed. Mulholland played an extremely plucky game to beat Watts and both he and Truman overcame Shaw to gain our sets.

The transition from defeat to victory is pleasant and it was an encouraging start on the road back to eminence when Liverpool women opened their Division 2 season with a victory over Stockport by 7-3 at Waterloo Dock.

We were represented by Bluey Casselman, Beryl Waterson and Moya Jones, and the last named, on her first appearance of the season, made a strong claim to a regular place in the team with three good wins, all of them in straight games.

Mesdames Casselman and Waterson did extremely well in their doubles match, considering that it was the first time they had ever played, even in practice, under the new rules which eliminate the service court and allow the service to land anywhere in the opponents' half. In their singles Beryl won twice and Bluey once, though one of the latter's defeats was by 20-22 in a set reduced to one game through the time factor.

The women's good run in the Rose Bowl came to an end last week when, in the zone final, Eileen Mansell, Beryl Waterson and Moya Jones visited

Manchester. It seems a long time since Liverpool defeated a Manchester side in either men's or women's matches, and while Manchester continues to turn out such a grand side as Adele Wood, Dolly Wilkinson and Jean Braddock, only a much improved Merseyside standard will see us through.

The score in this match was 8-1, a little flattering to our opponents perhaps, but the Manchester superiority was nevertheless clearly illustrated. Our victory came when Eileen Mansell defeated Jean Braddock, but Moya Jones did well to take a game from Dolly Wilkinson and extend Jean Braddock to 21-19 in the third game of their set.

In the doubles, of which there are three, Liverpool were never in the hunt and could not win a game.

Teams for future matches are: Men v Warrington at L.P.A.S.—Rigby (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.), Taylor (Bath Street) and Mulholland (Balfour); v Ellesmere Port away.—Truman (Victoria Park) replaces Mulholland.

Women v Barrow at Balfour on Saturday afternoon, January 21.—Mrs. M. Jones and Miss M. Willcox (Bohemians), Mrs. B. Waterson (Anfield).

League positions are as follows:—

Men's Division 3B

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
St. Helens	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Ellesmere Port...	4	2	0	2	26	14	6
Mid-Cheshire ...	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Widnes	4	2	2	0	16	24	4
Wigan	4	1	2	1	23	17	3
Liverpool	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
Southport A.....	4	1	3	0	11	29	2
Warrington ...	3	0	3	0	11	19	0

Women's Division 2

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Liverpool	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Wirral	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Barrow	2	1	1	0	11	9	2
Stockport	2	1	1	0	9	11	2
Macclesfield ...	2	0	2	0	6	14	0

The men's team beat Warrington at Liverpool Police clubroom by nine sets to one last Friday night, and on the following evening the women's team, in which Miss Muriel Willcox (Bohemians) made her debut for the League, won by a similar margin at Macclesfield.