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DIGEST

*Official Magazine*

OF THE

WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

# Table Tennis Digest

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Vol. VI

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## COMMENT

THERE can be little doubt that a certain sign of the virility of any organisation, is a constant interest towards an improvement in its smooth running, with a steady stream of suggestions and criticisms.

Those in authority have been pondering for some time on the possibilities of a further change in the constitution of the League, but the response to a request for observations and suggestions has been such that it seems fairly obvious there is no justification for any new steps being taken at the present time.

Your Editorial Board have also been deep in thought, with regard to the successful running of this magazine, and despite the overwhelming majority in favour of a continuance as recently as last summer, now have in mind a number of ideas whereby the whole lay-out and contents might be radically altered. At the same time the question of the necessity of a monthly publication is also being considered, and it may be that the League will be asked once again at the A.G.M. to express their wishes with regard to the prolongation of the Digest's existence.

One matter, however, which we feel certainly demands a very serious consideration by the League, is the present decline in the Women's section, for there can be little doubt the standard in the Women's Division is lower than at any time since the war. Though the problem bristles with difficulties, it may be that some radical steps will have to be taken in an effort to instil some real vigour into this section, which has faded so badly in recent years that it appears to be a question of time before we have no Women's section at all.

The problem of short teams is still with us, and despite fines being imposed, the position, while not as acute as it was a few years ago, cannot be adjudged satisfactory by any means.

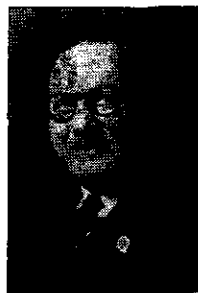
In a general sense the offenders belong to a particular group, those Clubs running a large number of teams, and it may be that in future they will have to give much stronger proof that they are capable of consistently turning out full sides each week if they are not to be rationed with regard to the number of sides they may enter.

These then are just a few of the topics which may be coming up for consideration at a later date, but it is up to the members to take advantage of their opportunity at the A.G.M. to ventilate their problems and to offer suggestions for the smoother and more efficient running of the League.

*From the Secretary's Desk*

## LIVERPOOL'S MOST EXCITING EVENT FOR MANY YEARS

By **W. STAMP**



THE last event of our season, and the most exciting to be held in Liverpool for many years, are the finals of the *Daily Mirror* national tournament, from which internationals and winners of any open tournament are barred. They take place at the STADIUM next Saturday, commencing at 7.0 p.m. It is almost certain that from among these finalists another "white hope" for England will emerge, and it should not be forgotten that Jimmy Lowe, the Rowe twins and Anne Haydon started on the road to fame from a *Mirror* tournament.

You will find that the standard of play among these contestants, both junior and senior, is a lot higher than you think. Despite our various coaching schemes, Liverpool has only once been represented in the final stages—which is nothing to boast about.

Supporting these young hopefuls are stars of yesterday and to-day, and for those who want to make comparisons, here is your golden opportunity.

**VICTOR BARN**A, perhaps the greatest and most colourful player of all time, will, with the help of **ALEC BROOK**, be the representatives of the pre-war era, and their exhibition should give many of you food for thought. Barna is at present in Tokio acting as N.P.C. to the English Corbillon Cup team, in which **ANN HAYDON** has played so brilli-

antly with **DI ROWE**, what a fighting finish they had with Rumania, who retained the Cup.

Ann has skyrocketed to the top during the last 12 months, but look at her background. Adrien, her father, was England's No. 1 for many years, while her mother also represented England and played in the Merseyside Open in 1937-8. Nevertheless Ann has not achieved her position by living on her parents reputation, but by sheer hard practice.

**LINDE WERTL**, the Austrian red-headed bombshell, will oppose Ann in a singles match, and completing the post-war brigade will be **HARRY VENNER**, who reached the final of the English at Belle Vue last month, having beaten Szepesi (Hungary) and our own Johnny Leach on the way. Many people thought he should have had a place in the Swaythling Cup team in Tokio—and I feel sure that it was expense that beat him, as England could not afford to send more than three men and two women players. Unlike some countries, we are not state-aided in our amateur sports—and long may it remain so. **LOU LAZA**, the happy-go-lucky Australian, completes our star parade. He plays with sponge, holds the blade of the bat and makes no use at all of the handle, and plays backhand and forehand with the same face of the bat.

*Continued on page 14*

## BALFOUR'S YEAR ONCE AGAIN

AS you read this last contribution for this season, let me remind you that Balfour have again taken the major honours, both for team events and individual performances.

Not only have they convincingly won the most hazardous of prizes—the league championship—but they have again succeeded in the Readman Cup, with a game advantage over Rafters. This result I anticipated in my articles a few months back, although the result of the final was in doubt until the very last game.

Rafters A and Lucem have proved too weak for this division and will be taking on second division status next season. One of the promotion sides will be Bootle Y.M.C.A., a refreshing sign as they are all youngsters.

Anfield and Oakhill, who have teams of similar constitution, evenly balanced from top to bottom, have done well to enjoy a good position in the league.

If I had been asked to name the winner of the Closed I would have said Reg Hetherington or B. Hand, those two having good records for the season. If it did Bill Pierce might have won a Closed before now.

Nevertheless my bet this year would have been for those who have played inter-city matches regularly. They are toned up above league play and have had that little extra practice and match experience, to give them some advantage. I have in mind particularly Arthur Taylor, (Liverpool), Hand, (Southport) and N. Jones, (Wirral).

I was surprised to see that all four of last year's men's singles semi-finalists of the Closed were in the same half of the draw. I would have expected at least the runner-up to have been in the opposite half.

This year this division claimed three semi-finalists, the odd man out being Arthur Taylor. Let's hope that he will soon gain the advantage of first division play to improve his game.

Only seven players have an individual average of 80 per cent or better—Hetherington, E. Rumjahn, P. Rumjahn, Hand, V. Chesham, H. Wilcock and Pierce, in that order.

## Last match was the Decider

CONGRATULATIONS to Bootle Y.M. and Bath Street who have won promotion to the first division, and commiserations to African Oil and Waterloo Dock, who are due for third division table tennis next season.

Oakhill A ended the season with a close 6-4 win over Litherland, six of the sets going to three games. For Oakhill, F. Simms, playing at No. 5, won two—24-22 and 21-18 in the third. The rest of the team got one each. For Litherland, Anderson won two and Chew and Clayton one each.

A considerably weakened Liverpool Y.M.A. managed to beat Bootle Y.M.A. 6-4. J. Cain, a reserve playing at No. 1 for Liverpool deserves mention because he beat L. Harris 21-15, 21-19 and only lost 21-17 in the third to B. Crolley—a really creditable performance. A. Roberts beat both Harris and Cairns, and R. Owen, another reserve, playing at No. 5, beat A. Harris two straight. Liverpool Y. M.'s other two sets came from Young and Rodrigues.

A correspondent in one of our local papers said, if my memory serves me correctly, that he could not see Bootle Y.M. having much difficulty in winning their last few matches, and so were virtual winners and I agreed with him, but how wrong we were.

Bath Street finished with 36 points. With two matches still to play Bootle had 35 points. On March 13th they played Anfield A at Bootle. They could only draw and when I tell you that J. Stewart, (Bootle), beat E. Barnes 23-21 in the third, you will realise how near they came to defeat.

Their last match was against my own club at the A.O.M. They had 36 points, the same as Bath Street. If they lost, Bath Street would be champions, and Bootle only won 6-4. So if Stewart hadn't scraped home in the third against Barnes Bootle would have been in a dangerous position.

Against A.O.M., Williams, Their No. 5, beat Harding 21-16 in the third. This rather detailed account shows you how near Bath Street were to getting medals.

I have, on your behalf, accepted the Challenge from the fourth division. Any one can ring me for details.

## NEVER CUT AND DRIED

THE last match has been played and the season complete. Panto and Police have gained promotion to the second division and Wavertree and Beauclair go down to the fourth.

Behind these simple facts lie a most interesting season for it was never cut and dried until the last two matches. In these Panto made top place secure by defeating Linacre 6-4—and incidentally spoiling Linacre's unbeaten home record—and then followed it up with a 9-1 win over a weakened Linnets A team.

Beauclair were most interested in this result as they then had a good chance of avoiding relegation. All that was wanted was a draw at home with Wavertree, but they could not rise to the occasion and, after a close match, lost 6-4. So Linnets kept in the division by the skin of their teeth. Jim Green prophesied at the halfway point that the Linnets would not go down, but it was a close call. I feel sure that a different Linnets A will be seen next season.

Linacre have had a good season and their ever-faithful six, who take it in turn

to drop out each week, have caused some upsets, none more than Lacey, with his sponge bat—a most difficult player to beat. Osterley have clubroom difficulties, having lost their present headquarters. I hope it will not mean finis to the club, who are an asset to the league.

Maghull too, may find it difficult next season, but Secretary Owen will, I am sure, find ways and means to make sure they are well represented. I strongly fancied them early in the season, but they ran into a bad patch and dropped valuable points, although Rawlinson, at No. 1, has had a good season.

English Electric and I.C.I. held a middle-of-the-table course for most of the season. Had Derek Jones been available for each match, Panto and Police would have had an even greater struggle.

Lofters disappointed me, and themselves, early in the New Year. Points were not forthcoming from five matches and they dropped from top to near bottom.

### Fourth Division

by Jim Green

## Everton Y.M.'s Ever Present

**CADWAA** who ~~started~~ <sup>started</sup> like champions, played thoroughly well all season, and only faltered once, have deservedly won the Division, and, accompanied by Litherland A, will move up next year. These two teams have done particularly well, for the next two or three teams have been hammering at them all the way, and it has been anything but a one-horse race, which is all to the good.

The weakness of Wavertree has been apparent from the first, and unless they make some signings for next season, they will do well to hold their place in the fifth. Tech. Students beat the Police in their last match, but this came too late and they will go down with Wavertree. Yet, this match was really a good fight, and I enjoyed every minute of it.

Our outstanding player has been Peter Turtle, with a 100 per cent record—a player who could command a place in almost any first division team—except Nomads, of course. Our most consistent player has been his team-mate J. D. Donnelly, who has completed nine seasons with the same team, never missing a single match in League or Cup.

How many other clubs can show such a record of loyalty?

Long service players with other clubs are Arthur Quiggin (R.A.F.A.), N. Barooah (Tech. Students) and the Aigburth trio of Donnelly, Wass and White. These clubs would not seem the same without them.

Kevin Fenerty (Brenka), will not be with us next year. I hear he is going to Canada. From your many friends in the league Kevin, a hearty good luck.

Youth has been almost entirely absent this year, apart from Cadwa, who are moving on. The only two of whom I can think being Birch and Miller, of Brenka, and we hope to see these two players next season. Both of them have improved from the start of this season, but there is still room for more, and the summer is the time when they can really get down to it.

Matches are being arranged between our team and those of the second and 6th divisions. It is too early, as I write, to give you the dates and venues, but, if possible I will contact all secretaries and let them have the details. *Come along and give our boys support.*

## Happy Season Now Ended

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to Panto on winning the Rumjahn Cup. They were a better team than Balfour B although it is possible some of the games might have gone the other way. Their victory, nevertheless, was well earned and I would like to thank them for a very sporting match.

I had hoped for a better attendance at the final of fifth division players, to give Balfour B some moral support.

With the season ended I can look back upon it with mixed feelings. I have seen some brilliant table tennis and some honest endeavour. I have seen some bad table tennis and, in several instances, an attitude of indifference as to the result of the game. However, taken on the whole, we have had a reasonably happy season in our division.

I am particularly pleased to say that I have not come across an instance of really bad sportsmanship or ill manners, apart from the fact that some players have arrived at all hours and gone home before the match has been completed.

I was really surprised recently to find that the Bohemians played with a two-star ball, which, in my opinion, does not make for good table tennis, and I think that the Management Committee ought to insist on the three star-being used on all occasions.

I have been rather disappointed with the response I have had this season from captains and secretaries. In fact, I have not had one voluntary contribution from anyone. I can only write what I see and hear, and as I reminded members earlier in the season, any outstanding instances which occur in is always of interest to others.

A belated congratulations to Vic Jenkinson, Bohemians' captain, on his marriage. May he be very happy and still find himself in a position to play among us.

As this is the last issue for the issue I would like to say that I have given every team, with the exception of Rafter's, to whom I apologise, a write up, and I would like to thank those whom I have visited for the cordiality of their welcome.

## FEAT OF THE SEASON

**I** PAID tribute to Liverpool Y.M. last month as worthy champions. This month I must acknowledge the only team to take a point from the champions—Domestic Mission. This was surely one of the outstanding feats of the year.

Sandland was the hero with two sets, ably backed by Miss Patterson, McVey and Moore with a set each. Jackson as usual bore the brunt of the attack at No. 1. For Y.M., Cain did not let the side down with two sets. Yum Poon, a newcomer, scored a set, with Christie and Loughry making it five.

Here are some records with a few cards still missing that were lost in the post earlier in the season, I have managed to catch up on most of the missing ones. Following you have the club, top scorer, and ever-presents if any:

Anfield C—Nash, 19 sets; Bath St. A—Every 36 sets; Cadwa B—Walls and Walters 21 sets; Walls; English Electric A—Wilkes 24 sets; Byrne and Coleman; Domestic Mission—Sandland 22 sets; Sandland and Jackson; Fairlawn—Carter 32 sets; Linnet A—Crowther 18 sets; Lofters A—Day, McDermott, Wardle, Wilkinson, Bennison, 8 sets each; McDermott; Liverpool Y.M.B.—Loughrey and Owens 34 sets each; Loughrey and Owens; Oakhill—Glover 24 sets; Rankin—Gibson 17 sets;

Carter, of Fairlawn, is the only player who has played regularly at No. 1 Pinnington, (Anfield), won 15 out of 18 sets; Edwards, (Bath Street), 25 out of 30 Leading women were Mrs. McGrath and Miss Evans, of Fairlawn, with 10 sets each.

English Electric and Fairlawn called on seven players each, while Linnet and Cadwa called on 14. Dolovity, of Linnet, receives the perseverance medal—32 sets without a win.

My thanks to Brian Leeson and Norman Cooke, my only correspondents, and to Ted Jones for his assistance during the season.

I was surprised to hear that so few clubs had comments to make on the present league set-up, as any one of you may find yourself in the fifth division rut at any time.

# FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

## First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour	22	20	0	2	182	38	42
Bohemians	22	18	1	3	162	58	39
Rafters	22	18	3	1	151	69	37
Victoria Park	22	12	7	3	125	95	27
Oakhill	22	9	9	4	114	106	22
Anfield	22	8	8	6	106	114	22
Linnets	22	8	9	5	111	109	21
Liverpool Y.M.	22	8	10	4	103	117	20
Balfour A	22	6	12	4	81	139	16
Nomads	22	2	18	2	70	150	6
Rafters A	22	3	19	0	59	161	6
Lucem	22	2	18	2	56	164	6

## Fifth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Dunlop	22	19	1	2	140	80	40
Balfour B	22	15	5	2	139	81	32
Rafters B	22	13	5	4	144	76	30
Oakhill B	22	10	6	6	124	96	26
Victoria Park B	22	11	7	4	118	102	26
Bohemians B	22	9	9	4	110	110	22
Bootle Y.M. B	22	8	9	5	108	112	21
Anfield B	22	6	9	7	103	117	19
Victoria Park C	22	7	10	5	97	123	19
W'breck Moor	22	6	13	3	96	124	15
W'loo Park A	22	3	13	6	92	128	12
Balfour C	22	0	20	2	49	171	2

## Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bootle Y.M.	22	16	0	6	152	68	38
Bath Street	22	16	2	4	151	69	36
Litherland	22	14	6	2	124	96	30
L'pool Y.M. A	22	11	7	4	111	109	26
Anfield A	22	10	8	4	112	108	24
Oakhill A	22	11	9	2	111	109	24
Bohemians A	22	7	10	5	107	113	19
Bootle Y.M. A	22	5	8	9	105	115	19
Victoria Park A	22	7	11	4	100	120	18
Cadwa	22	4	10	8	93	127	16
African Oil	22	2	16	4	86	134	8
Waterloo Dock	22	1	17	4	68	152	6

## Sixth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
L'pool Y.M. B	20	19	0	1	168	32	19
Bath Street A	20	16	3	1	143	57	33
Oakhill C	20	11	6	3	116	84	25
Fairlawn	20	12	7	1	114	56	25
Cadwa B	20	9	7	4	99	101	22
Anfield C	20	7	10	3	83	117	17
Domestic Mis.	20	5	9	6	87	113	16
Rankin O.B.	20	6	11	3	86	114	15
English Elec. A	20	4	13	3	76	124	11
Lofters A	20	3	14	3	73	127	9
Linnets B	20	3	15	2	55	145	8

## Third Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Panto	22	15	2	5	142	78	35
L.P.A.S.	22	14	6	2	120	100	30
I.C.I.	22	10	6	6	124	96	26
Maghull	22	11	7	4	117	103	26
Linacre	22	10	6	6	116	104	26
Lofters	22	11	9	2	114	106	24
Waterloo Park	22	9	8	5	119	101	23
Osterley	22	9	8	3	106	114	23
English Elec.	22	9	9	4	113	107	22
Linnets A	22	4	15	3	85	135	11
Beauclair	22	4	16	2	87	133	10
Wavertree	22	2	16	4	77	143	8

## North Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Litherland B	22	19	1	2	170	50	40
Bootle Y.M. C	22	18	4	0	154	66	36
Bath Street B	22	15	3	4	147	73	34
W'loo Park B	22	13	5	4	149	71	30
Brenka A	22	12	7	3	131	89	27
Litherland C	22	12	8	2	132	88	26
Co-op	22	12	8	2	122	98	26
Maghull A	22	6	14	2	90	130	14
Douglas Y.C.	22	3	15	4	65	155	10
R.Aux.A.F.	22	4	17	1	61	159	9
Orrell	22	2	18	2	56	164	6
Co-op A	22	3	19	0	43	177	6

## Fourth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Cadwa A	20	17	1	2	145	55	36
Litherland A	20	14	4	2	129	71	30
Everton Y.M.	20	13	4	3	122	78	29
Brenka	20	11	5	4	115	85	26
R.A.F.A.	20	10	8	2	105	95	22
Panto A	20	7	7	6	108	92	20
Aigburth	20	8	8	4	104	96	20
L.P.A.S. A	20	7	11	2	89	111	16
African Oil A	20	5	13	2	82	118	12
Tech. Students	20	4	15	1	76	124	9
Wavertree A	20	0	20	0	25	175	0

## South Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Harold House	22	18	2	2	161	59	38
Rafters C	22	15	1	6	143	77	36
Sefton General	22	16	5	1	152	68	33
L'pool Y.M. C	22	15	5	2	141	79	32
Bedford	22	10	7	5	109	111	25
Dunlop A	22	10	10	2	112	108	22
Florence Oxton	22	11	11	0	110	110	22
Lucem A	22	8	10	4	108	112	20
Aigburth A	22	5	12	5	93	127	15
Lussac	22	4	14	4	87	133	12
W'tree Labour	22	3	16	3	73	147	9
African Oil B	22	0	22	0	31	189	0

# LEAGUE TABLES

## Central Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
G.L.S.C. ....	22	22	0	0	183	37	44
Rankin A ....	22	12	5	5	126	94	29
Bohemians C...	22	11	4	7	122	98	29
Ebani .....	22	11	7	4	121	99	26
L.P.A.S. B ....	22	12	8	2	115	105	26
Cadwa C .....	22	9	7	6	122	98	24
R.A.F.Mov. ....	22	7	8	7	109	111	21
Leyfield .....	22	7	10	5	111	109	19
Osterley A ....	22	6	11	5	95	125	17
Lofters B .....	22	6	15	1	93	127	13
Tech. Sud. A ...	22	4	14	4	78	142	12
Anfield D .....	22	1	19	2	45	175	4

## Women's Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Anfield .....	22	20	0	2	174	46	42
Rafters .....	22	17	2	3	158	62	37
Bohemians .....	22	17	3	2	161	59	36
Balfour .....	22	15	7	0	139	81	30
Littlewoods ...	22	12	8	2	117	103	26
Waterloo Park	22	11	8	3	122	98	25
Oakhill .....	22	9	11	2	97	123	20
Bibbys.....	22	8	13	1	95	125	17
Cadwa.....	22	4	15	3	79	141	11
Osterley .....	22	5	16	1	79	141	11
Aigburth .....	22	4	17	1	68	152	9
Linnets .....	22	0	22	0	31	189	0

## Personal Pars

Congratulations to Ita Howley (Anfield) on her engagement to Mr. Cyril Hardy, of Liverpool. He is employed on the Persian Gulf, where it is understood Ita is to join him on their marriage.

A pleasant ceremony was performed at the Readman Cup final when Les Davies (Balfour) was presented with his Liverpool Colours. Perhaps they proved a consolation for his "blank" night.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. have added cause for satisfaction in the promotion of their A team player, Albert Harris, to Everton F.C.'s first goalkeeper.



# Taylor's Win The Highlight

By J. D. and E. LOUGHREY

THE highlight of this year's Closed must certainly be the success of Arthur Taylor, which, in many respects, is extremely noteworthy. First it is extremely doubtful whether a player outside the first division has won the title, and second, the suggestion last year that the league's youngsters were really starting to knock at the door, has come to fruition even more quickly than expected.

There is no doubt that Taylor has made a big advance in the twelve months and his success was fully merited. In the final against Les Davies, the holder, he soon showed that sponge held little terror for him, and gave a convincing demonstration of the usefulness of spin serves against such bats. It seemed that he would win easily in two straight, but Les, with a flash of inspired form, saved the second game after being a long way behind, though he could do nothing in the decider, which Taylor won 21-11.

Taylor's heavy defeat of Norman Jones in the semi-final was a real revelation giving a hint of what was in store, while the failure of the experienced Vic Chesham in the other semi-final underlined the merit of Taylor's later performance.

How strange it was that no Rumjahn got through to the final stages of the singles, though it must not be forgotten that Ted was a non-starter. Ron was beaten by Les Davies, and Don Hobbs, who later fell to the eventual champion, eliminated Peter in two straight after a tight opening game.

One of the most exciting of the earlier sets had been the encounter between Mulholland and Jones, which the latter won 21-19 in the third. Mulholland appeared certain to win through when he led 19-16 in the decider, but Norman's fighting rally gave a false suggestion of a real challenge in the final stages.

The lesser names in the event did not achieve many noteworthy successes, but the victory of Keith Rawlinson (Maghull) over F. Thomas (Linnets) should be mentioned.

In the Mens' Consolation, the title again went outside the premier division, for it was Cadwallader, of Bootle Y.M.,

who emerged the winner against Robinson (R.A.F.A.) 21-18, 24-22. In this event Butterworth (Rafters) did well and only went under to Robinson in the semi-final on a deuce in the third.

It was noticeable not for the first time that those winning through to the later stages of the event were in pretty poor shape by the end of the evening, due to the necessity of virtually playing one set after another. There is probably no answer to the problem because of the lack of time available, but it is a matter which might be worth considering.

The absence of Eileen Mansell from the women's entries made it nearly certain a new name would go on the list of champions, and it was Beryl Waterson, who has appeared in the final previously, who proved to be the victor.

The real sensation however, came before the final, when Beryl beat Moya Jones, unbeaten all season, by the fantastic scores of 21-9, 21-7, a result which certainly requires some explanation. For without wishing to detract in any way from the Anfield girl's performance, it is extremely hard to avoid the conclusion that Moya was well below her best on this occasion.

In the final Beryl met Muriel Willcox and, despite a close first game, won very comfortably and deservedly took the title.

One player who did well in this event was Myra Murphy. In reaching the semi-final she brought off one of the best performances by an outsider of the whole tournament. In her progress she removed a succession of her Rafters colleagues, Pinky Rumjahn, Joan Brennan, and Jean Benson, before falling to Willcox at the penultimate stage.

In the other half, some Anfield players got to grips when Ita Howley and Reg Royle had a very long and gruelling struggle before the former won 21-19 in the third. She then went on to give Beryl Waterson a good fight before losing 17-21, 21-23.

*Continued on page 11*

# HIGH-CLASS PLAY OF JUNIORS

Ivy Crafter demonstrated she can still hold her own with the best, by winning her way to the final of the Consolation Singles, when she met Julie Roberts, and it seemed she might well have won if the previous rapid succession of matches had not sapped her strength. As it was she went to three games, losing finally 16-21.

There could have been very few who gave Lil Robinson and Ann Allan much hope in the women's doubles final against Moya Jones and Muriel Willcox. They were defeated 19-13, but as this is the second year in succession they have reached this stage, perhaps a little more credit should be given. This time they removed Royle and Howley and then brought off a very good victory over Dickenson and Pinky Rumjahn in the semi-final. They may yet achieve complete success.

As usual the junior singles provided a high grade of table tennis and more interest than some of the other events. The hot favourite for the title, John Stoddart, duly won, proving himself a worthy champion. The only time up to the final that his composure was unsettled was when the diminutive Ralph Gunnion threatened to take the second game off him in the semi-final.

In the final, however, he met a worthy opponent in Eric Anderson, who gave a

praiseworthy display and pleased many with his occasional demonstration of the art of the dropshot. The standard in this match was satisfying indeed, and both players must take credit, though Stoddart in the end drew away and proved a good winner.

In the men's doubles we had almost the same finalists as a year ago, with Peter Rumjahn in place of brother Ted, but the result this time went in favour of the Rafters pair after a real up and down tussle, 21-14, 20-22, 21-19. The scores resemble a year ago, for Bill Harris and Reg Hetherington nearly lost in two straight and only levelled on a deuce. This time, however, the brothers Rumjahn did not crack up and despite a desperate struggle just managed to get home by the narrowest possible margin.

Bernard Hand and Moya Jones, holders of the mixed doubles title, were not too extended in remaining in command, for they beat Harris and Mrs. Alcock comfortably in two straight.

It is worthy of note that eight players were concerned in the Men's singles and doubles, and there was a pleasing absence of the same few being concerned in one event just after another, which could explain the satisfactory attendance which was the best for some years.

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## ANFIELD'S FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP

IT only seems yesterday that I wrote the first article of this season, and now, after what seems a creditably short time, we are at the end of the season and here is the last issue of the magazine for the term and with it the end of yet another five months of battles won and lost. Probably some of us feel we should have done better and others of us are quite happy about our position in the league table. Among the latter there is no doubt that Anfield must be one of the happiest of teams. For the first time since this club entered a women's team in the league they have finished champions—and this without losing a match.

And to crown this achievement they are now holders of the Bartholomew Cup by virtue of the fact that they beat Rafters 9-1 in the final.

This was to me a most unexpected result. I naturally hoped that the team I play for would win, but I never expected such a decisive victory considering that Anfield had drawn at home to Rafters and had had a terrific struggle before they won 7-3 at Bentley Road.

The player who really surprised me was Jean Brennand, who seemed to lack

her usual fire and was easily beaten, especially by Beryl Waterson. Kay Rumjahn and I must have had numerous battles, but the result is always the same—Kay wins.

Anfield's defeat of Bohemians in the final league match of the season allowed Rafters to beat them on the post for second place, after Bohemians had threatened, for most of the season, to challenge Anfield for the championship. I think the turning point in their season was when they were beaten by Littlewoods.

And now let us end on a congratulatory note. Moya Jones, who has played most of the season at No. 1 for Bohemians, is the only player with an unbeaten record. Moya has won every set in both league and cup matches. This is surely a very good record. Well played, Moya, and may you keep up the good work for many more seasons.

Ita Howley, of Anfield, won the Civil Service (Pensions and National Health Service section) tournament at Blackpool last night. Her prize—an electric blanket.

## ... and their First Cup

By Margaret Lindner

**HEARTY** congratulations to Anfield on capping a very successful season by winning the Bartholomew Cup for the first time, beating Rafters 9-1 in the final.

As a contest it was rather a one-horse race, and it appeared as if Anfield had taken to heart the president's advice last year when they were runners up to Boh's, to practice harder, coupled with the fact that they were strengthened this season by signing on B. Waterson and N. Lamb.

Rafters, who have won the cup so many times in the past, will, I am sure, be the first to admit that on the evening they were beaten by a stronger and better balanced side, four of the sets only going to three games.

Beryl Waterson had comfortable victories over Joan Brennand, whom I have seen play much better, and Naomi Sibley, who would certainly have done better had her attack been up to the standard of her defence.

Jean Benson put up a plucky fight in the third game to both Ita Howley and P. Rawlinson, who were both on top

form. Pauline had already struck a sad blow to Rafters in recording, I believe, her first victory over Kay Rumjahn 21-19 in the third after an exciting set.

Kay once again proved to be Nan Lamb's bogey when she beat her 21-19 in the third after a dour cat and mouse tussle and a real test of stamina, to record Rafters' only victory.

Nan's defence was shown to greater advantage, however, when she beat Myra Murphy 19 and 19. Myra was also beaten by R. Royle 20-22, 16-21, after an advantageous lead in the first game, and would have had better results had she not been so eager to make every shot a winner. Reg Royle had no difficulty in overcoming Naomi and Ita, and was a comfortable winner in the last set against Joan.

It was disappointing and regrettable that apart from supporters of the two teams, women members of the management and Balfour, the host club, I noticed only one woman member of another club present.

## Stout Hearts of A.O.M.

CONGRATULATIONS, Harold House, on winning the region championship, and to Rafterers on being runners-up.

I remember saying in my first write up that this would not be a walk-over for one club, as it was last season. How true this has proved to be. Had Rafterers and Sefton General (who, incidentally, were the only team to beat the champions) not thrown away valuable points on less strong teams, the result would have been quite different.

Now what about the team at the other end of the table—African Oil B, who have been holding us all up throughout the season without gaining a point? What a burden it must have been, but what stout hearts they must have to have carried on, always with a full team? Congratulations to you, African Oil. I hope the experience will stand you in good stead next season and ultimately in a higher position in the table.

I was very disappointed, to say the least, on the night of the match against the Central Region, on being told at 7-30 p.m., by one of Central's players, that R. Butterworth would not be playing for us. Apparently J. D. Loughrey had told him he had to play for the Nomads that night.

While I agree our game was only of a friendly nature and that the Nomads must come first, I consider it a poor show that someone could not inform me before the night of the match.

The result of the match was a 3-7 defeat, and the team, Elachman, Connolly, Kettle (1), Douglas (1) and Cohen (1).

The return match with the North Region proved more favourable, being a victory 7-3, and the team as against Central, which means that the final result of the inter-regional matches was double victories for Central over both North and South and a double by us over North.

## WON WITHOUT DEFEAT

ONCE again the time has come to think of outdoor rather than indoor sports.

As far as our region is concerned the table tennis season has passed quietly, with very little in the way of excitement, except perhaps in the Hyde Cup final. G.L.S.C. are to be congratulated on their sportsmanship in that match.

Cup final nerves tended to lower the standard of play in the early stages, but these were overcome as the match progressed. Barrington, the G.L.S.C. captain, seemed the least affected and gave of his very best, playing far above his usual standard.

We must also congratulate G.L.S.C. for going right through the league season and, until the final, the Hyde Cup undefeated, and to commiserate with them on failing to gain the cup by only one game—five sets all and 12 games to 11.

There were few changes in the league positions, except when Cadwa slipped down the scale after re-ranking halfway through the season. This allowed Rankin to move into second place and R.A.F. Movements to shoot up into third position, although they could not hold it when they lost some of their players.

The dark horses were undoubtedly Bohemians. After their long run of drawn matches, they started gaining the extra point and quietly crept into third position. Well done, Boh's!

At the other end of the table, Anfield seemed quite content to occupy the lowest berth. No doubt they have enjoyed their matches, despite having to play short on occasions.

Our best wishes for their future success go with G.L.S.C. as they move to higher spheres, and may we hope that although Leyfield and Osterley are losing their clubrooms, they will be able to keep together, find some other accommodation and be with us again next season.

In the friendly matches we managed to gain a second win over the South.

## Quiet Finish to Season

**AFTER** the ups and downs of the season the last two weeks have been very quiet, results being very much as expected.

Congratulations are due to Litherland B on achieving a very fine double in winning the league by four points and then beating G.L.S.C. in the final of the Hyde Cup. It was an excellent match, interest being maintained until the end.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. C, runners-up in the region, have had a very good season and their success is a good sign for the future as they are probably one of the youngest teams in the whole of the Liverpool league.

The most remarkable feature of the final league table is that 12 points separate the seventh and eighth clubs.

There has been a marked difference in the standard of play on either side of that wide line, but it must be remembered that with the exception of Maghull A all the teams in the bottom half are

new to the region and I expect to see them in a higher position next year.

Douglas Y.C. finished the strongest of the bottom clubs, obtaining five points from the last four matches. The members of these bottom clubs are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm, despite frequently losing by 10 sets to nil, and with more experience will in turn be inflicting such defeats on others.

The leading averages for all the Cup and league matches are: K. Hughes (Bootle Y.M.C.A. C) 89.3 per cent; A Reid (Bath Street B) 87.5; K. Anderson (Litherland B) 86.2; A. Chaney (Brenka A) 85.29; A. Hoatson (Litherland B) 85; D. Styles (Litherland B) 84.48; T. Reynard (Waterloo Park C) 84.21; and Mrs E. Cantwell (Brenka A) 82.14.

There was very little to choose between the teams that finished in third to seventh places in the region although Waterloo Park B had at one time an excellent chance of winning the region but were disappointing in the middle of the season.

## GREAT NIGHT AT THE STADIUM

*Continued from page 3*

Despite all these "irregularities", I am certain he will, at once, become a favourite with the Liverpool crowd. He is also a cricket professional with a Lancashire League club, but I haven't asked him which end of the cricket bat he holds.

The doors open at 6-15 p.m. and Jimmy Leach (of the Organolians) will be there to entertain you at the organ until the show commences and also during the interval. The Stadium will be in the hands of experts working through Friday night erecting a 42 ft. x 34 ft. arena and transforming the place, and it is safe to prophesy that most people will remark "How the old place has changed."

Everything has been laid on for your entertainment; it only needs YOU to come along and bring a friend to make it a success and to justify the confidence of the *Daily Mirror* in inviting Liverpool to stage this event the first time it was decided to go out of London in to the provinces. So our reputation is partly in your hands.

The prices are within the reach of everyone, 5/-, 4/- and 3/-, which includes tax. The tickets may be obtained from the Stadium, at Jack Sharp's in White-chapel, or from me, but only on receipt of the remittance together with a stamped addressed envelope, to 3 Farndale Close, Liverpool, 18.

See you on the 21st.

# CUP HISTORY IS REPEATED

By Ken Jones

**A**FTER a grand four hour struggle at the Bedford Club, Balfour retained the Readman Cup by defeating Rafters by five sets to five, 14 games to 13 a slender margin that was a repeat of last year's final between the same teams.

Balfour opened with their No. 1 banker, Hetherington against McCaig only to find the latter rising to the occasion in fine style. Taking the first game 21-16, he went on to lead 21-20 in the second with the Balfour captain struggling for every point. Surviving that match point, Hetherington quickly found his confidence and won the third game comfortably.

This was a very close call indeed, and later in the match McCaig was again involved in a vital point, this time against Gaulton. The match score was 4-all and McCaig led 17-10 in the third game when Gaulton staged a fine recovery to pull up to 19-20, only for McCaig to win the vital point with a net cord.

Gaulton also fought a fluctuating set with Ferguson, losing the first game 9-21 and winning the second 21-10. The final game was close up to the early 'teens, when Ferguson lost a great chance of taking the lead by missing the easiest of smashes and Gaulton coasted to victory without further trouble.

The final was an excellent match for the Rumjahn brothers, each beating Les Davies, who thus suffered his only blank night of the season. Ron Rumjahn completed his double with a three-game

win over Norman Jones and Peter beat Reg Hetherington in what was easily the best set of the match.

Consistent attacking by Peter against the academic defence of the Balfour player, provided many good rallies and the issue was in doubt until the end when Peter just got home in a thrilling third game.

Jones and Willcock each gained wins for Balfour by beating Peter Short in two and three games respectively, and at 11-30 p.m., with Rafters leading 5-4, Willcock had to play Ferguson knowing that he had to win in straight games to keep the cup in Smithdown Road, a feat which he duly accomplished despite a late rally by Ferguson in the second game.

Congratulations to all ten players for a very good final and to the Balfour team on repeating their cup and league success of last season.

The table lights at the Bedford Club appeared to be most adequate. Before the start of one set, however, Ron Rumjahn requested that the other lights in the room be switched off, only to find that his opponent Norman Jones, wanted them on.

A hasty conference between Management Committee officials present produced a quick decision—that the lights be left on. Would it not, however, be a good thing for the Management Committee to take action to ensure that such a situation does not occur again?

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# Another Jewel In Crown

By Jim Green

**BY** defeating Balfour B, the holders, by the decisive score of 8-2, Panto added the Rumjahn Cup to the championship of the third division, and closed yet another season in their history of success, which started in the South Region (Div. 2) some five years ago, and which has been continued each year, with very much the same team throughout.

Even though Panto appeared certain winners from the outset, there were some interesting sets, and Balfour never gave up hope.

Joe Ellison fought (as usual) with everything he had, but met his match in the calm and collected Bob Mason and Bert Harkness. Against Mason, Ellison got away to a flying start, and took the first game, but in the second and third Mason always looked likely to win. This was a good effort, for Mason was playing with a borrowed bat, having had his own sat upon just before the start of the match.

Mason and Harkness completed their doubles at the expense of P. Evans and H. Critchley respectively, and young Carroll, the only newcomer to the Panto team for years, beat both Evans and Jim Dickinson very comfortably. Bob Slater played much below his normal form and lost two, to Harry Critchley and E. Jones, these being Balfour's two wins.

The set which afforded me most interest, was that between Jones and Pete Anderson, for it afforded a study in mobility. Jones leaped about like a ballet dancer, arms flailing, head bobbing and weaving, the phlegmatic Pete, stood squarely upon his feet, seldom shuffling more than about twelve inches, and moving his bat arm no more than strictly essential to make contact with the ball. At one end constant motion, at the other, conservation of energy.

A great match player this Anderson Nothing ever perturbs him. To round off his evening, he beat Jim Dickinson 19 in the third, making this the first time that Jim had appeared in the losing team in a cup final. Ah well, there has to be a first time for everything.

Make no mistake it has to be a good team to beat this Balfour line-up, but this time they met a really good one in Panto, who should make quite a stir in the Second Division next year.

# A QUESTION OF PRIORITY

By E. Cameron

**IS** a Liverpool League major honour less desirable than a Crosby youth tournament? It would appear so from the Hyde Cup final between Litherland B and G.L.S.C. The latter were given the unenviable option of allowing two tournament players to arrive late or forcing the playing of reserves. Their choice limited the selection of the "next set on." Did it contribute to their defeat and should not the league insist on a full team by 8 p.m. for such important functions?

These points were aired after the narrow games only won by Litherland, not so much by the players, who accepted the situation, but by impartial spectators.

The scientists produced Faneran for their first man against skipper Styles, and I was not surprised to see a Faneran with a backhand defence so consistent that an indentation appeared on the bat rubber as he precisely centred each shot. Styles was more aggressive but Faneran plodded on very effectively and G.L.S.C. ~~were one up.~~

Grant put them two up; then on came Howgate, a mountain of a man, to oppose Anderson of Litherland. Anderson seemed pleased that the table was between him and this giant. No wonder he was timid, but daunted—no, and it was soon plain that with his fluent style he was the master.

Murray pulled Litherland up to two-all against a ponderous Almond, and at this crucial stage Anderson met Barrington, the latter verbally conceding the set in advance and playing just well enough to ensure he did not prove himself a liar.

Almond and Hay were two of a kind, except that Hay, red-faced and eager, was in such a hurry to get the game over he did not leave himself time to win, and it was now Litherland's turn to produce their secret weapon, a confident Hoatson, who accounted for No. 1 Boffin fairly comfortably.

Barrington followed with a fine attacking win against Murray, without a pre-match summary of his opponent's favour, and once again sets were level. Skipper Styles then proceeded to win the cup for Litherland, which rather took the shine from Grant's great final-set victory over Hoatson.