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Vol. VII

December 1956

No. 2

COMMENT

THERE is little doubt in the minds of your editors that the reception of the first issue of the *Digest* was not all that might have been desired—to put it bluntly, the general opinion was that it was distinctly disappointing.

Surprising as it may seem however, so far from spreading disappointment through the ranks of the Editorial Board, there was a feeling of considerable satisfaction that for the first time in a number of years, our readers had been roused to let us know just what they wanted us to provide. It is possible; therefore, for us to make some effort to meet your demands, possessing, as we now do, a pretty clear picture of the likes and dislikes of the League as a whole.

We have stressed so often in this page that it is up to members to express their views, with absolutely no response, that we feel no great responsibility when, in an effort to provide new features of interest, we incorporate fresh articles which, in the event, are by no means successful.

It is now clear that any reference to matters of history are of small appeal, other than to older members, and, in particular, the account of the early days of the League was certainly unpopular. Mr. Bather and his spats were so vigorously criticised for appearing in print, that we scarcely dare underline one of the salient points of that article, the admirable enthusiasm of those days and the comparison with the present time.

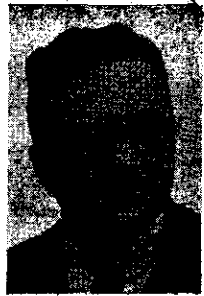
As your willing servants, however, and with a firm indication of what is required of us, for the first time in six seasons let it be said, we have tried again, and trust that this issue will more nearly meet with your requirements and provide more interesting reading than did the November issue.

As a talking point for the month the subject of the multitudinous rules re ranking of players might be suitable, particularly as there is quite a body of opinion which feels that the time for a return to a much simpler code is long overdue. The main reason for this viewpoint is that however often one closes an avenue for gaining an unfair advantage, there is always at least one left for some astute person to exploit.

The present complicated legislation requires a legal mind to appreciate, and more than one secretary has run into trouble for the simple reason he could not understand the regulations. There is a great deal to be said for the argument, but it will be necessary for certain clubs to prove their willingness to observe the spirit of the League rather than the rules, before a welcome return to simplicity can be made.

From the Secretary's Desk

The Problem of Short Teams - And a Reason



by
W. STAMP

I WOULD like to deal this month with the question of short teams. A perusal of the Management notes for the first two months of the season reveals that there have been all too many of these. In fact, before the season was a month old, there had been eleven offences, which have been repeated in the second month.

These cases have all to be considered individually and take up a considerable amount of the Committee's time, and whilst it has never been the policy of any Management Committee to increase the league revenue by means of fines, we have to protect the other clubs who are concerned.

There is no fun in travelling many miles on a cold winter's night to play in a match, to find you only play in one game because an opponent has not turned up, or, as has already happened on three occasions, the whole team failing to appear.

The fact that your team is awarded the points is no satisfaction—I assume you have all joined the League to play table tennis and not to be awarded walk-overs.

What is the cause of all this absenteeism?

The majority of the offenders are clubs with more than one team and the simple answer seems to be that they have not enough players registered. You may then say: "This is the fault of the Management—they should operate their own rules" (15 in this case).

Many club secretaries will bear me out when I say that they have an almost impossible task at the beginning of each season, when players will not send in their registration forms but still come along the week of the first matches and want to know whether they are included in the team and, when questioned about not sending in their forms, reply: "You knew I would be joining", etc. etc.

There have been many instances where this assumption has been made, only to find that the player has joined another club (which he is perfectly entitled to do—it's a free country) but they could at least acquaint their previous club of their intentions.

Knowing all these facts we have always tried to help by not being too keen, when the registration of teams has taken place, by insisting that applications will not be accepted unless there are sufficient players signed on. We have on many occasions been assured that everything was all right only to find that the women players were being counted twice (i.e. for the mixed and women's teams).

To try and get a realistic approach to this problem we suggested at the last A.G.M. the insertion of the following in Rule 15: "Any woman registered for both a mixed and women's team will only count **once** in respect of minimum number of players registered" but this was lost by a large majority. Clubs who have suffered from this short team problem may have second thoughts at the next A.G.M.

Secretaries are forced to use this double registration practice because quite a few players refuse to sign up for a club unless they are **guaranteed** a place in the team each week, with the result that when, as often happens, two or three players are unable to play through illness, night school or business reasons, a team arrives with a player short.

To allow for this, Rule 15, first paragraph, covers this (but only just) because we tried recently to get the minimum increased to **eight** players—without success. When the concession was given to allow women to play twice, it was never envisaged that such an advantage would be taken, but where this does

—continued on page 9

DOUBLES DECIDED MATCH

By Frank Varty

AT 7.15 p.m. on Thursday, December 6th, I arrived at Linnets' clubroom expecting to find a host of eager young women knocking up, anxious to make a 7.30 start (according to Rule 23), but I was dismayed to find the place in darkness and the door locked.

Retiring to "Joe's" to drown my sorrows with a cup of Mrs. Jim's best china brew, I discovered that there was a Linnets A v Cadwa A match and had my faith in the fixture handbook repaired. We opened up and had a knock-up to while away the time and eventually the match began at about 8.15. The Cadwa girls, I believe, got off at the wrong bus stop. But, girls, I ask you—8.15!

Pat Abbott proved to be the steadiest player of the evening and was too good for her opposite No. 1, Pat Bracklev. The Cadwa player was ever-eager to use her forehand drive but her inability to pick the right one to hit lost as many points as she gained so that Linnets took the set 21-14, 21-17.

In defeating the Cadwa No. 2, Maureen Robinson, Paddy was able to dictate the course of both games, for Maureen was unable to produce a shot to deter Pat from giving her forehand attack a night out. I felt that Maureen's too-square-to-the-table stance and a reluctance to leave the centre line, contributed to her downfall at 21-8, 21-9.

Valerie Waddell treated the spectators to some good aggressive sponge play in her defeat of Sheila Jones 21-12, 30-28, despite plugging Sheila's strong suit, a good stylish forehand chop. Indeed, it looked as if the second game would go on all night when, at 28-all, either by inspiration or in desperation, Val served one down Sheila's backhand and it was all over.

Against Pat Brackley, Val got home 21-16, 21-14, but not without some qualms, for she came from behind in both games with a variety of half-volleys and counter-hits to score a well-deserved win.

Joan Lee didn't have a very comfortable passage with Maureen Robinson, whose half-volleyed angled push-shot had her guessing. Although she occasionally surprised her opponent with a forehand winner the Cadwa girl took the set 21-9, 21-13.

Joan went to three games with the agile June Howarth, a left-hander who certainly hates that little white ball—an essential quality. Possibly playing her forehand drive off the wrong foot was one reason for its inconsistency, but although the Linnets' players was not perturbed by shots exploding round her ears, she could not prevent June winning 21-19, 13-21, 21-16.

Cath Churchill does not pretend to be a stylish performer, and against June Howarth she pegged away quietly, hoping that June would, in her youthful eagerness, batter herself off the table. It was not to be and Cath bowed the knee (albeit gracefully) 18-21, 13-21.

Against Sheila Jones, Cath nearly produced a surprise. Sheila looked the more accomplished but took the game rather too easily (fatal) and was fortunate to get an edge to win the first game 21-19. Cath kept getting them back by the simple expedient of getting her bat in the way, but once was so surprised whei a high one came over labelled "Hit me", she had a go and missed and Sheila took this one 21-15.

The doubles provided a little more activity, with Cath Churchill an admirable foil for Pat Abbott. Cath got 'em back and Pat put 'em away against Pat Brackley and Maureen Robinson so that they took the set 21-12, 21-17. Val Waddell and Joan Lee operated in much the same way, with Val hitting successfully with both back and forehand. Sheila and Joan didn't seem to get going and Linnets took the set 21-15, 21-9 for a 6-4 win.

But full marks to the Cadwa girls for a smart turn-out.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOTES

Notice to all club secretaries: To avoid clashing with the Closed Championships, the third rounds of all cup competitions have been altered to the week commencing January 14, 1957.

The E.T.T.A. propose to make a presentation to Mr. A. K. Vint, who has been treasurer of the Association for 25 years, and from Bill Pope's death in 1946 until this season also acted as hon. general secretary. It was unanimously agreed to make a presentation of 10 guineas and also to place on record the League's appreciation of his contribution towards table tennis.

Huntley & Palmers v Bohemians C: Some confusion had arisen regarding this match, and a postponement was arranged over the telephone by some unauthorised person, and Bohemians put in an appearance on the wrong night. Both secretaries were in attendance at the meeting, and after consideration of all the evidence the Management ordered the match to be played on or before December 14.

The following decisions were reached arising from the fixture secretary's report:

Transfer of Bradshaw from Liverpool Y.M.C.A. to Cadwa—approved.

Anfield C v Rankin. Rankin failed to put in an appearance. Match awarded to Anfield, and Rankin warned.

Rankin A (1 short and 1 ineligible) v Anfield C. Match awarded to Anfield and Rankin fined 5/-.

Technical Students (1 short) v Lussac. Warning.

Stoneycroft Y.C. (1 short) v English Electric. Warning.

Linnets A (1 short) v Waterloo Park. Warning.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. v Anfield (1 short due to sudden bereavement). Accepted.

Orrell had not arranged cup match with Technical Students B. Match awarded to Technical Studs.

Bedford had not arranged cup match with Huntley & Palmers. Match awarded to H. & P.

Liverpool Nalgo had not brought forward the fixture with Bohemians and the match was awarded to Bohemians.

Lucem v Cadwa and Lucem v Panto B. Lucem failed to appear at both these matches. Points were awarded to their opponents and Lucem fined 5/- on each count.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. D have taken over B team fixtures in the Central Region. Match night—Wednesday.

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TWO WORTHY DEBUTS

Since the last notes there have been only three matches, and as they were all won comfortably it can be accounted a successful month.

For the time being at least, the women hold the stage, for having beaten Barrow in a Rose Bowl match they are now due to meet Manchester on Friday, December 21, at Balfour. They reached this stage by beating Barrow very comfortably at Linnets by 7-2, the match being notable for two reasons. Firstly, advance publicity had been provided by Linnets' secretary Jim Green, who circulated every club, something which I doubt has happened before, but which met with the usual response—players, their friends, officials and one or two others making up the 'crowd'.

Secondly, Myra Murphy made her debut for Liverpool. As she won her two sets as well as a doubles, it would be, perhaps, a little hard to criticise, but I feel that with less anxiety about the importance of the occasion she will be able to do much better.

A high spot of the evening was her doubles partnership with Muriel Willcox. In their match they "met" during the playing of a point, coming in opposite directions at a pace which could be described as brisk, and the resultant chaos, I must admit, provided for me about the most enjoyable moment of the evening.

The previous night the women were in action against Bury at Balfour, and a comfortable victory was gained. Here, too, was an event which I doubt has ever been recorded previously—Muriel Willcox in her match against J. Hopkinson won the first game 21-0!

In this match also was a debutant, Joyce Randall, of Balfour, coming in at short notice, but more than holding her own in winning two of her three sets. This result may have some importance, for if the match had not been won, Liverpool might have been in some danger of relegation.

Last week's league match with Manchester women, when our team was M. Jones, B. Waterson and M. Willcox, saw Liverpool lose 7-3 after a display which did not discredit them. But it was not a happy augury for the Rose Bowl tie when Manchester may well play a more experienced side. Mrs. Waterson and Mrs. Jones each won singles and the latter with Miss Willcox took the doubles.

The only other fixture completed at the time of writing has been that at Southport, where our first team continued their victorious way with a 10-0 triumph over Southport A.

The side was Ron Rumjahn, Bill Pierce and Arthur Taylor.

Eight out of the ten sets were won in two straight, Taylor beating D. Shaw 21-16 in the third, and our doubles pair, Rumjahn and Pierce, defeating Shaw and Longhurst 21-12 in the third.

Although Liverpool won so comfortably, the table tennis was most attractive, all the players adopting an aggressive style.

Forthcoming fixtures:

First team:

Warrington (away), January 11.

Ellesmere Port (home), Jan. 18.

A Team:

Southport A (home), January 11.

Women:

Manchester (Rose Bowl),
at Balfour, December 21.

Division 3B

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pt
Liverpool . . .	3	3	0	0	30	0	6
Ellesmere Port	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Mid Cheshire	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Widnes	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Liverpool A . .	2	1	1	0	10	10	2
Southport A . .	3	0	2	1	9	21	1
Chester A . . .	2	0	1	1	5	15	1
Warrington . .	2	0	2	0	5	15	0

Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pt
Manchester . . .	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Blackpool . . .	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Burnley	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Liverpool . . .	3	1	2	0	15	15	2
Bury	2	0	2	0	5	15	0
Ashton	1	0	1	0	0	10	0

LEAGUE TABLES

(Including December 15th, 1956)

Division 1

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Rafters	10	10	0	0	85	15	20
Balfour	10	8	0	2	74	26	18
Linnets	10	7	2	1	71	29	15
Bath Street	10	5	4	1	52	48	11
Oakhill	10	4	4	2	45	55	10
Bohemians	10	3	5	2	46	54	8
Liverpool Y.M.	10	4	6	0	42	58	8
Anfield	10	3	6	1	41	59	7
Victoria Park	10	3	6	1	40	60	7
Litherland	10	1	5	4	32	68	6
Bootle Y.M.	10	2	7	1	37	63	5
Balfour 'A'	10	1	6	3	35	65	5

Division 2

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
L'pool Y.M. A	10	8	2	0	71	29	16
Rafters A	11	8	3	0	72	38	16
Cadwa	9	6	1	2	59	31	14
Bohemians A	10	5	2	3	57	43	13
Bootle Y.M. A	9	6	3	0	50	40	12
I.C.I.	10	4	2	4	56	44	12
Panto	11	3	4	4	51	59	10
Victoria Pk A	10	4	5	1	46	54	9
Oakhill A	10	2	6	2	31	69	6
L.P.A.S.	10	1	6	3	34	66	5
Anfield A	10	1	7	2	35	65	4
Lucem	10	1	8	1	38	62	3

Division 3

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Linnets A	10	8	2	0	78	22	16
Waterloo Dk	10	7	1	2	72	28	16
Litherland A	9	7	2	0	51	39	14
Lofters	10	6	4	0	55	45	12
Maghull	10	5	4	1	52	48	11
Waterloo Pk.	9	5	4	0	46	44	10
Linacre	10	5	5	0	51	49	10
English Elec.	9	3	5	1	35	55	7
Cadwa A	9	2	5	2	31	59	6
African Oil	10	2	7	1	36	64	5
Everton Y.M.	9	1	6	2	36	54	4
Osterley	8	1	6	1	24	56	3

Division 4

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Dunlop	10	9	1	0	83	17	18
University	10	9	1	0	68	32	18
Wavertree C.C.	10	8	2	0	70	30	16
Bath St. A	10	6	3	1	62	38	13
R.A.F.A.	10	5	5	0	48	52	10
Warbreck	9	4	4	1	43	47	9
Aigburth	10	4	6	0	48	52	8
Brenka	9	4	5	0	35	55	8
Beauchair	10	3	6	1	41	59	7
L.P.A.S. A	10	2	7	1	32	68	5
Panto A	9	2	7	0	36	54	4
Tech. Studs.	9	0	9	0	14	76	0

Division 5

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Rafters B	9	9	0	0	75	15	18
Bohemians B	9	6	2	1	58	32	13
Fairlawn	9	5	2	2	53	37	12
L'vpool Y.M. B	9	6	3	0	50	40	12
Bootle Y.M B	8	4	3	1	43	37	9
Balfour B	9	4	4	1	45	45	9
Victoria Pk B	9	3	4	2	45	45	8
Anfield B	9	2	3	4	43	47	8
Victoria Pk C	10	2	6	2	37	63	6
Wavertree A	8	1	7	0	17	63	2
Oakhill B	9	0	8	1	24	66	1

Division 6

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
G.L.S.C.	10	10	0	0	79	21	20
Harold House	10	8	1	1	74	26	17
Rafters C	10	5	2	3	66	34	13
Litherland B	10	6	3	1	61	39	13
Rankin A	9	6	3	0	42	48	12
Cadwa B	10	5	4	1	57	43	11
Bootle Y.M. C	9	4	3	2	47	43	10
Waterloo Pk A	10	4	6	0	49	51	8
Balfour C	10	3	6	1	33	67	7
Rankin	10	0	7	3	29	71	3
Anfield C	10	1	8	1	25	75	3
Domestic Mis.	10	0	9	1	28	72	1

Women's Division 1

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Bohemians	9	8	1	0	68	22	16
Rafters	8	6	2	0	56	24	12
Balfour	8	6	2	0	46	34	12
Waterloo Pk	7	5	2	0	41	29	10
Oakhill	7	1	4	2	27	43	4
Bath Street	8	1	5	2	32	48	4
Bibbys	10	0	6	4	34	66	4
Cadwa	9	1	6	2	26	64	4

Women's Division 2

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Linnets	10	10	0	0	92	8	20
African Oil	10	8	0	2	72	28	18
Cadwa A	9	6	3	0	57	33	12
Domestic Mis.	9	6	3	0	56	34	12
Rafters A	9	6	3	0	48	42	12
Linnets A	10	4	3	3	55	45	11
Bibbys A	10	5	5	0	52	48	10
Waterloo Dk	10	3	5	2	46	54	8
Bohemians A	10	3	7	0	37	63	6
Waterloo Pk A	10	1	7	2	28	72	4
Oakhill A	9	0	7	2	18	72	2
Dunlop	10	0	9	1	19	81	1

LEAGUE TABLES

North Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Litherland C.	9	7	2	0	66	24	14
Co-op	8	6	0	2	51	29	14
Bath St. B.	8	4	2	2	46	34	10
Brenka A.	8	4	3	1	42	38	9
Bath St. C.	8	4	3	1	38	42	9
Lofters A.	7	3	3	1	38	32	7
Waterloo Pk B	7	3	4	0	36	34	6
Warbreck A.	8	3	5	0	41	39	6
Bootle Nalگو	9	1	6	2	32	58	4
Orrell	8	0	7	1	10	70	1

South Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Sefton	7	6	0	1	55	15	13
Linnet B.	8	5	0	3	55	25	13
Flourace Oxton	7	3	0	4	43	27	10
Aigburth A.	9	5	4	0	49	41	10
Stanley House	8	3	2	2	46	34	9
Dunlop A.	9	4	4	1	47	43	9
Linnetts C.	8	4	3	1	39	41	9
Wavertree Lab	8	2	5	1	31	49	5
Bedford	8	1	7	0	23	57	2
St. Michaels	8	0	8	0	12	68	0

East Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Bohemians C	9	8	1	0	69	21	16
Huntley & P.	10	8	2	0	73	27	16
Nalگو	9	6	2	1	58	32	13
Bohemians D	10	6	3	1	60	40	13
L.P.A.S. B.	10	6	3	1	57	43	13
Cadwa C.	9	6	3	0	60	30	12
West Derby	9	4	3	2	48	42	10
Artistes	9	4	4	1	50	40	9
Beauclair A.	10	2	7	1	28	72	5
Stoneycroft	10	1	8	1	29	71	3
Eng. Elec. A	9	1	8	0	21	69	2
Huntley & P. A	8	0	8	0	7	73	0

Central Region

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Lussac	9	8	1	0	60	30	16
L'v'pool Y.M.C	9	6	3	0	59	31	12
R.A.F. (Moys)	8	6	2	0	12	28	12
Lucem A.	7	5	1	1	39	31	11
Ebani	9	4	5	0	49	41	8
Waterloo Dk A	7	3	3	1	39	31	7
Tech Studs A	8	3	4	1	42	38	7
Panto B.	9	2	5	2	34	56	6
Tech Studs B	8	1	6	1	20	60	3
Aigburth B.	8	1	7	0	22	58	2
L'pool Y.M.D	2	0	2	0	4	16	0

CUP DRAWS

RUMJAHN CUP — Round 3

Linnetts A	v.	G.L.S.C.
A.O.M.	v.	Linacre
Maghull	v.	Wavertree
University	v.	Litherland A/ Harold House

BARTHOLOMEW CUP

SEMI-FINAL

Balfour	v.	Bibbys
Bohemians	v.	Rafters

READMAN CUP — Round 3

Rafters	v.	Bohemians A
Rafters B	v.	Bath Street
L'v'pool Y.M.	v.	Balfour
Linnetts	v.	Victoria Park

HYDE CUP — Round 3

Huntley & P.	v.	Sefton
Lucem A	v.	L'v'pool Y.M.C
Waterloo Dk A	v.	Linnetts B
Bohemians C	v.	Flourace Oxton

Continued from page 3

happen and teams are thereby short on occasions, the Management have no option but to fine, and keep on fining those concerned.

This practice of guaranteeing every registered player a game has also the great disadvantage that it kills competition, because players are aware that they are bound to be picked regardless of whether their form justifies such choice.

Crossword: The prize winners of last month's puzzle were Mrs. P. McVey (Domestic) and Miss J. Roberts (Balfour), and a box of Villa XXX balls has been forwarded to them. We regret that owing to lack of space we cannot include a puzzle this month.

DIVISIONAL NOTES

Rumjahn's Resurgent

WHO is going to stop the all-conquering progress of Rafters?—that is the question. The resurgence of the Rumjahn brothers is largely responsible for the return to power of the south-end club, for Ted and Ron are unbeaten while Peter has lost only three times.

One of the points of interest this season has been to watch the progress of the new clubs, Bootle Y.M., Bath Street and Litherland. The Y.M. are badly lacking in experience, which probably explains their poor showing to date, although Ian Rogerson might have been expected to do a little better.

The great feature has been the brave showing by Litherland, who, while also lacking experience, have nevertheless provided more than the odd upset in form, including a sensational draw against Balfour. The latter had two reserves in the side, but Litherland were certainly quick to demonstrate that liberties must not be taken with them, the victory by Eric Anderson over Ken Gaulton being especially noteworthy.

Bath Street, with Arthur Taylor at No. 1, have a big advantage on the score of experience, especially with Aspinall, Gould and Delamere also in the side, and it is not surprising they are doing the best of the three promoted clubs.

★ ★ ★
ANYONE who is prepared to come out with a definite statement as to which sides are going to end in the two top places of Division 2, deserves a medal for courage. The topsy-turvy results defy analysis and this survey might be best employed in considering one or two relevant points.

Liverpool Y.M. A are not quite at their original strength for John Cain has moved into the first team, and W. Bintley, who has dropped down, may make an immediate return to the First Division.

Rafters A, after an excellent start, have recently run into trouble, for, having lost joint leadership with a defeat by the Y.M., they have now fallen further behind by another defeat by Cadwa.

These two have acted as pace-makers, but there are so many others hard on their tracks that it

is virtually impossible to decide who is going to emerge as the real challengers. It could be the consistent Bohemians A, hard to beat and admirably served by Rycroft and West.

But the side to watch is Cadwa, who seem to be getting into their stride the form of Mandaluff having a great deal to do with this, though veteran Rennie Crafter is having his most successful season for some time and is responsible for much of the success.

★ ★ ★

IT has not taken long for the better clubs in Division 3 to slip away from the rest of the field and it seemed likely that Linnets A, with a powerful side would outstrip all rivals. Then in 24 hours, came two results which changed the picture. Linnets beat Waterloo Dock in a replayed Rumjahn Cup match, and must have tackled the league fixture with a fair measure of confidence not withstanding the playing of a reserve. As it happened, reserve F. Crowther did by no means badly, it was the failure of some of the regulars which caused the upset—in particular, the defeat of Ruane by Dunne and Sille, both of whom he had beaten the previous night.

Waterloo Dock had shown every sign of making a quick return to Division 2, but a number of slips suggested they might be fading. The victory over Linnets puts them right back in the picture. With the immaculate J. Seddon (unbeaten apart from a defeat by J. Roach in the replay), and general strength, they have a chance to go for the top honours.

Litherland 'A' look like a side who might go close, though Waterloo Park, who have already beaten Waterloo Dock, have an equally good record. For the Park, Readitt is having a particularly good season and Hayden is proving, as usual, difficult to beat.

It is always hard to understand why Maghull have not made even better progress up the Divisions; though past difficulties over club-rooms must be partial explanation. On paper they have a very useful side, but to date have averaged less than a point a game.

MAJESTIC PROGRESS ENDED

ALTHOUGH they were being matched step for step by University, the majestic progress week by week of Dunlop always threatened to make Division 4 a one-horse race. Recent events therefore came as a shock, but there is no gainsaying the fact that the students, by their 6-4 triumph in the league match and by 7-3 in the Cup over Dunlop, have taken over the role of potential champions.

There is great strength in the side at the top, for Ellis has carried nearly everything before him. The little extra is provided by H. Dean at No. 5, a position which can make all the difference in close matches.

Wavertree have shown a welcome return to form, and were it not for the pacemaking of University and Dunlop would have an outstanding chance of returning to Division 3. Siddall as always is beating most opponents, but the good form of Inge and Tarr is having much to do with the revival of the Community Centre.

At the other end of the table it is surprising to find Brenka, and for a side with several well known names it is hard to explain why they are in difficulties. Beauclair began the season badly but recent victories, including one against Brenka, has seen them rise in the table. Their strength comes from Weston, and most of their problems from the tail-enders.

★ ★ ★

THERE is such a wealth of experience in the Rafter's B side it is hard to imagine anyone making a serious challenge to their position at the top of Division 5. Jones and O'Dwyer are hard to subdue, and the side have the great advantage of a very strong tail, in which Bill Lamb has yet to lose a league set and A. Montgomery has dropped very few.

Bohemians B are following very doggedly in their footsteps. Here it is G. Baker who is performing well, with the Liverpool women, M. Jones and M. Willcox, providing maximum support.

The variation in strength in the division is truly startling, for whereas it contains sides who have dealt

mortal blows to clubs in Divisions 2, 3 and 4 in cup ties, the bottom of the table is very weak.

Wavertree A are having a very rough passage, although taking it all with rare good humour. Balfour B have lost their grip on the division title but can still command respect; Joe Ellison as always, giving everything he has, usually at No. 1, and with plenty of success.

A shaky start by Bootle Y.M. B has not prevented them finding a winning vein once more; in fact, since those two opening defeats only Rafter's B have been able to defeat them. Here, too, there is a side with all round strength, and the advantage of having a player like Les Cairns is obvious.

★ ★ ★

THE big question in Division 6 is who is going to stop the progress of G.L.S.C.? Their record is imposing. Since last season they have played 22 league matches in the Central Region and nine in the 6th, and have won the lot. Nothing appears more certain than they are to win yet another title.

They met Harold House, close rivals, early in the season and won 6-4 and the return may well provide some excitement. Rafter's C certainly might give them trouble but they must watch for the surprise defeat.

After the shock of seeing a card in the first week read, Rankin 3, Rankin A 7, we have watched the A team steadily moving away from their first team! In fact, the A team won their initial four matches and are now ten points ahead in the race; an astounding state of affairs, and surely a case for re-ranking. There have been so many reports on W. Newton, in the A, that it is not surprising to see him building up one of the best records in the section. He is a youngster who should be watched.

Domestic have been steadily dropping for a number of years, and it seems they will now have great difficulty in maintaining their Division 6 status. Jackson and McVie are not doing badly at Nos. 1 and 2; it is lower in the order where the trouble lies.

Bohs' Big Advantage

THE news of Bohemians' defeat by Balfour, due in no small measure to Joyce Randall's victory over Moya Jones, and ended an unbeaten run by Moya of around the 80 mark, was soon around the women's division. This very creditable win brought renewed hope to Balfour, who follow Bohemians closely in the table. Bohemians have a strong side, however, and will take a good deal of removing. Playing each team three times this season means that consistency is the all-important factor, and Bohs have the advantage in that respect.

There is little to choose between Balfour's four regulars, who have now settled down into winning vein. They have one advantage at least over Bohemians—they are certainly stronger at Nos. 3 and 4.

W. Finetty, of Waterloo Park, must be in line for selection for the City team if she can maintain her present form, for she has brought off some excellent victories and failed but rarely.

The standard of doubles play is already starting to improve as the result of the new order of play, and to date the combinations who have achieved the most success are Jones & Willcox, Glead & Tomkinson, Newell & Ellam and Murphy & Benson, but only Moya Jones and Muriel Willcox are unbeaten.

★ ★ ★
THOUGH there is still time for sensations, it does seem a case of Linnets first, the rest also ran, in the women's second division, though African Oil, who are still unbeaten, may possibly have other ideas on the subject!

As Osterley's women's team was disbanded at the start of the season the majority of its members joined Linnets, and the side has been strengthened so considerably that they would almost certainly have held their own in Division 1. At the time of writing neither L. Wynne nor M. O'Donnell have lost a set in league matches.

Two players with outstanding records are Nan Lamb of Waterloo Dock, who is unbeaten in league matches and has dropped only one set in cup games, surprisingly to May Evans; the other, T. McCabe of African Oil, who has lost only one set (to Nan Lamb).

Dunlop are not having a happy time on their return to the league, which is somewhat surprising for in their "open" sides there are several women regularly appearing who certainly would add strength to the side.

With such a scarcity of young women players it is good to see that Oakhill A are regularly fielding three—Marion Hamill and the Farrell twins. While the record of the twins is not over-impressive, both of them have at least some useful victories to their credit.

★ ★ ★
TOWARDS the end of last season Sefton General were one of the best sides in the South Region, and as the two teams who finished above them were promoted, the obvious conclusion was that they had a great chance of winning the region this time. As the side is virtually unchanged it is no great surprise, therefore, to find them with 11 points out of a possible 12.

Linnets B seem to be the most likely challengers and they have to their credit a point gained against the leaders, but they did their chances no good by dropping an unexpected point to Stanley House. G. Linsner has been doing well as the Linnets' No. 1; G. Walker was unbeaten in league matches until last week and K. Dutch also has a good record.

A new name which is attracting some notice is A. Lynn of Stanley House. He had a 100 per cent record until G. Linsner beat him 22-20 21-17.

The Dunlop A side has not quite realised expectations, for while several members have very useful records there have been a number of unexpected defeats. They might have been expected to make a firm promotion challenge but have already dropped too many points to be likely to make up lost ground.

★ ★ ★
In the Hyde Cup the main hopes appear to be Linnets B and Sefton General, and both are through to the last eight. Linnets B should get the better of Waterloo Dock A, but Sefton may have their work cut out to hold Huntley & Palmers, everything depending on the top matches where both are strongest.

NEWCOMERS DOING WELL

THE great feature of the East Region is the form shown by the new clubs. Huntley & Palmers, to mention one, appear to be well in the running for honours and one title appears to be theirs already—the best new regional side of the season.

Fortunate in having a strong pair at the top in Gaskell and Campbell, there is N. Sibley, ex-Rafters, at No. 3, and the slight weakness below these has not been important so far.

Their big match of the season was against Bohemians C and in winning 6-4 they gave themselves a good chance of challenging for the title. Their top three all did well, Campbell's defeat to Thomas being the only reverse suffered, but Bohemians did much better lower down and there was not a great deal in it at the finish.

Another new side, Artistes, are more than holding their own, with R. Boyle and T. Byrne providing the main strength, but it is hard to imagine any challenge coming from this club, for this season at least.

Of the several other new teams in the region, the outstanding impression is a lack of experience, not perhaps surprising.

One player at least, B. Hill, of Stoneycroft, has already found his form and, in fact, has one of the best records in the region. In this sense his clubmate, G. Kirk, is also worthy of mention.

★ ★ ★

LIVERPOOL Co-op have been members of the North Region for so long without hitting the

headlines that it is pleasing to be able to record that they are making real progress this season, and appear to have an outstanding chance of gaining promotion for the first time. The interesting point about their side is that there are few outstanding records, with the exception of W. Shaw, and if they do gain promotion it will be a real team triumph.

Principal danger to the Co-op appear to be Litherland C. One of the reasons for their successes has been an ex-African Oil player, A. Horwood, but they are lucky to have K. Anderson in the side, for he is capable of extending anyone when in his best form.

Bath Street B are the other side who must have hopes of being thereabouts at the finish, but they have thrown away one or two points unnecessarily, and it may cost them dear when the end of the season comes round.

Orrell are finding things more difficult than ever. To date they have won only nine sets, of which D. Allenby has won four.

★ ★ ★

IN view of the average results by Lussac in other seasons, to find them making the running in the Central Region is a surprise, even if there are many changes compared with a few seasons ago. To date they have won all their matches, and if there have been one or two close results, there is no question they are going to take a good deal of beating.

(Continued on page 16, column 2)

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Leading Averages

Below are the leading averages of players who have appeared at Nos. 1 and 2 in at least two-thirds of their matches and who have played at least ten sets. League and cup matches up to and including December 8 are taken into account. Although every care has been taken, owing to the limited time for their compilation it is possible that an odd error may appear.

Division 1	P.	W.	%
E. Rumjahn (Raft)	22	22	100.00
R. Rumjahn (Raft)	22	22	100.00
W. Pierce (Linn)	18	17	94.44
A. Taylor (Bath S)	20	18	90.00
R. Hetherington (Ba)	22	19	86.36
W. Harris (Oak)	20	17	85.00
N. Jones (Balf)	20	16	80.00

Division 2	P.	W.	%
J. Cain (L Y M 'A')	12	11	91.67
J. Rimmer (Luc)	16	14	87.50
E. Mandeluff (Cad)	16	13	81.25
R. Mason (Pant)	28	22	78.57
W. Crafter (Cad)	14	10	71.42
D. Jones (I.C.I.)	20	14	70.00
K. Wright (L Y M 'A')	16	11	68.75

Division 3	P.	W.	%
J. Seddon (Wa Dk)	20	19	95.00
E. Morris (Lin A)	22	19	86.36
B. Pardy (Lin A)	24	19	79.16
F. Lacey (Lin MC)	22	17	77.27
K. Rawlinson (Mag)	20	14	70.00
E. Smitton (Eng El)	16	11	68.75
P. Turtle (Ev Y M)	16	11	68.75

Division 4	P.	W.	%
T. Ellus (Univ)	28	25	89.28
M. Oakes (Dun)	14	12	85.71
A. Siddall (WCC)	24	19	79.16
J. Robinson (RAFA)	22	17	77.27
T. Killip (Dun)	24	18	75.00
M. Travis (WCC)	24	18	75.00
J. Brown (RAFA)	16	11	68.75

Division 5	P.	W.	%
A. Jones (Raf B)	22	21	95.45
D. O'Dwyer (Raf B)	26	19	73.07
E. Cameron (V Pk B)	14	10	71.42
L. Lewis (Anf B)	14	10	71.42
D. Loughrev (L Y M B)	14	10	71.42
G. Baker (Bohs B)	20	14	70.00
L. Cairns (B Y M B)	18	12	66.66

Division 6	P.	W.	%
B. Smith (GLSC)	22	21	95.45
W. Murrey (Lith B)	12	10	83.33
D. Grant (GLSC)	18	15	83.33
B. Jacobs (Har H)	24	19	79.16
R. McMullen (Raf C)	14	11	78.57
K. Casselman (Raf C)	18	13	72.22
A. McNamee (Lith B)	20	14	70.00

North	P.	W.	%
E. Halsall (Bath BC)	14	11	78.57
E. Jane (Bath St. B)	16	12	75.00
N. Tudor (Nal)	18	13	72.22
F. McDermott (Loft A)	16	11	68.75
A. Horwood (Lith C)	18	12	66.66
H. Harper (Bren A)	18	11	61.11
C. Bray (Wat Pk B)	14	8	57.14

South	P.	W.	%
R. Burge (Sef Gen)	16	15	93.75
A. Lynn (Stan H)	14	13	92.85
S. Linsner (Linn B)	20	18	90.00
G. Kettle (Sef Gen)	16	13	81.25
R. Davis (Bed)	10	8	80.00
F. Blakeley (Dun A)	14	9	64.28
F. Payne (Dun A)	18	11	61.11

East	P.	W.	%
G. Gaskell (H&P)	18	17	94.44
N. Campbell (H&P)	20	17	85.00
B. Hill (W. Derby)	20	17	85.00
R. Thomas (Bohs C)	12	10	83.33
J. Catterson (LPAS B)	16	13	81.25
M. Crawford (Bohs C)	20	15	75.00
R. Boyle (Artistes)	20	14	70.00
V. Jenkinson (Bohs C)	10	7	70.00

Central	P.	W.	%
F. Hampson (RAF Mv)	16	15	93.75
C. Yun Poon (L Y M C)	20	16	80.00
W. Maddocks (Luc A)	12	9	75.00
K. Rannard (Ebani)	18	13	72.22
J. Ashton (Ebani)	18	13	72.22
P. Faulkner (Luc A)	14	10	71.42
T. Rattigan (Lussac)	16	11	68.75

Women's 1	P.	W.	%
M. Willcox (Bohs)	18	18	100.00
M. Jones (Bohs)	16	15	93.75
W. Finnetty (Wat Pk)	18	14	77.77
M. Murphy (Raft)	18	14	77.77
L. Lacey (Wat Pk)	18	13	72.22
J. Brown (Bibbys)	20	14	70.00
J. Newell (Bath St)	18	12	66.66

Women's 2	P.	W.	%
N. Lamb (Wat Dk)	18	17	94.44
T. McCabe (AOM)	20	18	90.00
M. Harris (Linn)	20	16	80.00
B. Pealing (Linn)	20	15	75.00
D. Morrison (AOM)	20	15	75.00
B. Kane (Cad A)	14	10	71.42
M. Baron (Bib A)	16	11	68.75

VIEWS ON THE 'DIGEST'

THE following are points from letters received from our readers, for and against the new-style *Digest* published last month. Owing to their length we regret that it is impossible to give them in full.

N. Cooke (Bath Street):— I have just read the current issue of the *Digest* and consider it to be the most dull and featureless issue ever. Gone are the divisional features which, of course, kept us in touch with events in our own division or region.

The original purpose of the *Digest* was to keep league members abreast of developments from month to month, but in this issue only Mr. Stamp's contribution and the league tables have succeeded.

★

James R. Green (Linnets):— Your November issue was frankly disappointing. The purpose of the *Digest* was, originally, to give local teams the current local news. In this issue we have a two-page review by Eddie Cameron. For a column and a half this 'review of matches played' consisted of his impressions of a mythical announcement, a justification of the committee and also of league rules. This was two pages wasted. Let us have facts, please.

Des Loughrey's article on the old days is interesting to an old-timer like myself, but to the newcomer news of current affairs is far more to the point. On the credit side was Mrs. Rummhahn's article. I hope it will be the first of others on the same basis.

★

James Conroy (L.P.A.S.):— I received this month's *Digest* fully expecting it to be the same vintage as last season, but on reading through it I was disappointed; to put it stronger, I was disgusted.

I can honestly say I had no complaint with the previous publications, and looked forward each month to reading about the accomplishments of the various teams and players in the divisions and regions. I doubt if 99 per cent of the league members are interested in how the league was formed.

W. M. Shaw (Liverpool Co-op):— The *Digest* is the organ of the league and its main purpose should be to inform members of what is going on throughout the league. What is to be done with it? Return to the old idea of notes for each division and region; tell teams what they want to know—what their rivals and friends in other clubs are doing; who is winning; who is weak at No. 1 or 2 and who is evenly balanced from 1 to 5.

Down in the regions we rely on the *Digest*. We play each week out of touch with what is going on around us and if the *Digest* does not tell us, then it fails.

★

J. G. Walker (Linnets):— To help prove that the day of correspondence, like the age of miracles, has not passed, I would like to record that the *Digest* arouses a deal more interest than you seem to imagine. It must be remembered that criticism is far more likely to reach you than praise and I have no doubt that the great majority of readers found no little disappointment at being robbed of their monthly sixpennyworth of table tennis news and views.

As a regional player I feel it a pity that notes on the lower divisions have been axed in favour of a more detailed report of certain elite games. This is bound to limit the appeal of the *Digest*, and however interesting the history of the league may be, I have no doubt that the majority would prefer to read of their contemporaries.

★

Jim Dickenson (Balfour):— I would like to offer my thanks to Des Loughrey for his article on the history of the league.

As a working colleague of Les Forrest from 1926 onwards, it was inevitable that his infectious enthusiasm and boundless energy

YOUR LETTERS . . .

(Continued from page 15)

for table tennis should awaken my interest.

There must be still quite a number of us in Liverpool who think of Les Forrest and table tennis as synonymous, but to the majority of the league players his name is probably no more than just another in the handbook.

★

J. A. Lambert (English Electric):-

Do the Editorial Board in all seriousness consider the new issue of the magazine an improvement on the old; have they produced this paltry effort to ensure a quick and sudden death?

So far as myself, and all connected with me, are concerned, the magazine has always served its purpose (providing the divisional correspondent has done his job properly). The job it has done was to bring to the table tennis rank and file a regular league table to be studied and perused; news of "Joe Egg beating Joe Soap 22-20 in the third and—I murdered him two straight last month."; news with a personal interest, even if it was only one column per division; and records of players. These are the main things Mr. and Mrs. Average Player, want.

★

J. Millin (Waterloo Dock):- The frequent remarks re apathy in the November *Digest* have caused me to write my first letter to you.

Five seasons in the regions and lower divisions with (owing to force of circumstances) four different clubs, do not mean apathy. Being beaten in the first two rounds of the Closed for five successive seasons surely does not entitle anyone to say "You are apathetic in your outlook to table tennis in Liverpool".

The above examples are, of course, my own experience, but there are many similar cases; people who have played for seasons at perhaps a lower standard than may be desirable. But please, because we enjoy our game and leave the organisation to the organisers, do not dub us all as apathetic.

Net Cords

BY POST

ORNITHOLOGY: The season has now arrived when the movements of that peculiar bird, the Club Migrant may be observed.

It is understood that a good vantage point is the Pier Head as the Club Migrant is a busy traveller in both directions across the River Mersey. These birds are not at first easy to recognise, for they change their plumage so often and do not appear to be burdened with an excess of loyalty to any one colour.

DENIAL. There is no truth in the rumour that the reason the Liverpool League got the Daily Mirror tournament last season was that one of the Management Committee was an old flame of Jane.

CAUTIOUS. The chap who always said NIL instead of LOVE to his mixed doubles partner.

HOROSCOPE. Capricorn, Dec. 23-Jan. 20. It is essential to win the first point if you wish to lead from the start.

Aquarius, Jan. 21 - Feb. 19: Hitters of service will lose more points than usual.

Continued from page 13

As always R.A.F. (Movements) have several new faces in the side, and are not dropping too far behind. The form of F. Hampson has been outstanding so far. Technical Students A have only an average record, but an examination of their results suggests they may be a side to rise considerably in the table if the luck runs a little more kindly for them.

For example, they put up a good struggle against R.A.F. and were only defeated 6-4. If R. Spencer could have made it 21-19 instead of 19-21 in the third against C. Rogers, a point would have been gained.

Lucem A may also have a big say in the final decision as to the championship.