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**LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

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Vol. VII

January, 1957

No. 3

## COMMENT

**T**HE present fuel crisis is not without its effect on table tennis. In the short time the cuts have been in operation, a considerable amount of difficulty has been experienced by players locally, especially with regard to getting home after matches. The matter appeared to have some importance and was accordingly discussed at a recent Management Committee meeting and a number of requests for the starting times of matches to be brought forward by half an hour considered. It was decided that the onus should be on the clubs, who should be left to rearrange starting times of matches in light of the problems attending any particular match.

This does appear to be a commonsense solution to the matter, and it is now up to the clubs themselves to take whatever steps they deem necessary in their particular circumstances. There does seem to be clear indication, for outlying clubs at least, to start matches earlier, and it might be well to suggest that the matter is considered as a matter of urgency, in order to obviate the long walk home for people who have missed the last bus, something which has happened already on a surprisingly large number of occasions.

Recent events suggest that once again there may be important proposals coming for a further reorganisation of the League. One of the main reasons is the realisation that no matter how hard the Management may try to apply honestly rules designed expressly to ensure fair play for the League as a whole, it is virtually impossible to cover all eventualities and loopholes. The time may now have come to decide whether a further effort should be made to improve the League's constitution, working on a basis of a return to regulations which are as few and as simple as possible.

More than anything else is needed a straightforward answer to the problems of ranking, but while some clubs continue to have such a different estimate of their players compared to the opinions of outsiders and the ever-useful yardstick of performance in matches, it is truly a problem, almost defying a satisfying solution.

Correspondence this month has returned to the usual level, two to be exact, so we, as Editors, must assume the December issue was more to our readers liking than the previous issue. We are further confirmed in this view, by a postcard which arrived containing just two words: "That's better!"

# MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOTES

The following action was taken against clubs for breaches of the rules:

English Electric (v Osterley) one short—Warning.

English Electric (v Maghull) did not arrive—Fined 5/- and points awarded to Maghull.

Litherland 'B' (v Cadwa 'B') one short—Fined 5/-.

Bedford (v Wavertree Labour) not in attendance—Fined 10/- and points awarded to Wavertree Labour.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'B' (v Rafters 'B') two short—Fined 5/-.

Warbreck 'A' (v Waterloo Park 'B') one short—Warning.

Waterloo Dock women (v Linnets) one short—Warning. Linnets one short—Fined 5/- (second offence).

Oakhill 'A' women (v African Oil) one short—Fined 5/-.

Waterloo Park (v Bootle Nalgo) one short—Warning.

Linnets 'B' v Bedford: Bedford fined 10/-.

Anfield 'C' v Litherland 'A' Readman Cup. Walk-over to Litherland; Anfield fined 10/-.

Police (v Anfield 'A') one short—Warning.

Police (v Wavertree C.C.) one short—Fined 5/-.

Panto 'B' (v Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'C') one short—Warning.

Linnets 'A' women (v Dunlop) one short—Fined 10/-.

Fairlawn (v Victoria Park 'B') one short—Warning.

Oakhill 'A' (v Police) one short—Fined 10/-.

The transfer of R. Davies from Bedford to Sefton General was ruled not in order as Bedford would be left with only six players and they had undertaken to bring their strength up to the required seven. It was agreed that Davies (who was secretary of Bedford) be suspended until conditions as laid down above by the Fixture Secretary, are complied with, which must be by January 14.

*Reprint from the national magazine:*

At the last meeting of the Bournemouth T.T.A. Committee, it was decided that Mr. L. Taylor and Mr. G. A. Simons, of 5705 Club, be suspended for four weeks until the next meeting of the committee, which both players were ordered to attend. Mr. Taylor admitted that he had contravened the Association rules by playing in two matches in one week. Mr. Simons was the captain of the 5705 Club 'B' team which was fined the maximum of £5.

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# Ted Rumjahn's Come-Back

by J. D. Loughrey

ALL in all, this season's Closed Championships might well be described as one of the most interesting in recent years, for although the standard generally was not particularly high, there were many points of great interest. Surely, for instance, it has never happened before that a second team player should appear in the finals of the men's singles, or that the winner of the women's singles title should be a mother with a baby just five months old?

Yet perhaps the most interesting event of all was the emergence of Ted Rumjahn once again, after a lapse of several years, as the men's champion.

For once the records did not lie, for Ted, unbeaten in league and cup matches this season, proved them correct in surmounting probably the most difficult set of opponents of anyone, and no one could deny he richly deserved his success. In recent years it has seemed at times that he was finding it becoming more difficult to retain his place at the top of the tree during the Closed, but there was little trace of it this time in fact, he probably benefited in having to face in succession Rigby, Thomas and Hand before reaching the Y.M.—it tuned him up nicely for the final effort.

In the semi-final he met Arthur Taylor, the champion, and this was probably his stiffest task. It proved to be a grim battle, with Ted gradually imposing his tactics, until finally Taylor was forced to largely abandon his crisp hitting which was clearly going to win the match for him. Once that had been achieved, Ted was on top, and though he was at one point 5-10 down in the final game, he steadily forged ahead to take the match.

In the final, Mulholland, virtually from the start, was forced to follow Ted's lead, having kept largely on defence, and the way was open for the Rafter's player to indulge in some backhand drives which increased his advantage, and the result was never really in doubt.

It was possibly a slightly disappointing ending to Les Mulholland's magnificent performance in reaching this stage, for he had removed some strong opposition on the way. Against Peter Rumjahn his superiority was most marked, but this paled beside his feat in beating Ron Rumjahn in a most thrilling semi-final battle.

In that his backhand attack was much more in evidence than in the final, and it played a great part in his victory. Despite this, Ron was giving nothing away, and showed his experience by pulling back an 8-2 deficit to 16-all in the third. It looked near certain it was Ron for the final, but at that point play by Mulholland, which was quite top class, saw him narrowly home 21-18; quite a performance by a second team player!

In the preliminary rounds there were very few surprises, but it was gratifying to find the 4th Division with such an able representative as T. Ellis of the University. He created a big impression even before he met Reg Hetherington, but in this match, he very nearly caused the big sensation, for after holding set points he was only defeated 21-19, 20-22, 20-22. On this form he is well up to 1st Division standards.

In this event, generally speaking, the younger element, apart from Taylor and Mulholland, did not build up any further the threat which has been becoming more obvious recently. One looked in vain for the overthrow of the veterans, but apart from the results by Mulholland and Taylor, there just weren't any, and from the point of view of the future, the men's singles event could not be regarded as very promising. Experience still appears to hold the balance, no one proving this more conclusively than the winner of the men's consolation, John Coveney, who, by a combination of tactical play and pure cunning, beat several youthful opponents who are far in advance of him in stroke play.

# A CASSELMAN DOUBLE, TOO

I remember Bluey May winning the women's title in 1948, and in the intervening years she has frequently reached the final stages without managing the last hurdle. Now, after nine years, she has again become champion, and bearing in mind that now she has a very young family to look after, it must be regarded as a most remarkable performance.

In this event there were so many surprises that there was always a big chance of the unexpected happening, but the assurance of her play in the final really was a surprise. Once again it appeared that experience was paying off, for her opponent, Beryl Waterson, having lost the first game, established a long lead in the second but was unable to keep it and having been caught at 18-all, had to acknowledge defeat at 19-21.

Bluey's superb forehand defence against Beryl's vastly improved attack made for a spectacular final which was almost the best of the evening, and in defeat I thought the Lofters girl looked a better player than twelve months ago when she won the title.

The earlier matches cannot be passed without mention, for there were times when it was impossible to keep track of the shock results. Reg Royle, of Anfield, was responsible for some of these, as she eliminated the Bohemians player Moya Jones, who has lost only one set this season, and she certainly gave Beryl Waterson worrying moments before losing in the semi-final.

If this was not enough, we had the other twin, Pinky Rumjahn, coming along in great style to enter the semi-final as well, M. Willcox falling to her on the way. The sisters fought it out for the honour of appearing in the final, but Bluey had the edge this time. There were a few upsets by Linnets girls to round off the picture, M. Harris beating Olive Dickenson and L. Wynne removing Jean Benson, herself an ex-Linnets player.

Sponge made its presence felt in the women's consolation event, for T. McCabe went through to the final with such ease that I must confess it was with some surprise I saw her defeated by Miss Black from Cadwa. Sponge is not unknown at Cadwa, and that may be the clue, but in women's table tennis this kind of bat is still such a novelty that it is always likely to cause trouble.

An interesting point worth making is that none of the semi-finalists in the women's singles play in the women's divisions, a matter for deep thought in my opinion, and a fact about which many and various conclusions might be drawn.

In the junior singles there was an entry of 11, which, bearing in mind the number of youth clubs in membership, seems quite disgraceful. At this rate the days of the event are numbered unless active steps are taken to revive interest.

No one imagined the finalists would be anyone other than J. Cain and D. Butterworth, and that was how it turned out. B. Jacobs, of Harold House, showed considerable promise but was unable to challenge seriously for a final place, and the other possible, R. Gunnion, was easily beaten by Butterworth.

In the final Butterworth gave a display of free hitting which was enjoyable, even if it was slightly marred by a tendency to occasional wildness which cost him a few points. Cain began in whirlwind fashion, which was clearly designed to take him to a quick victory, but once he had been passed by some fierce forehand drives he lost the initiative and never really regained it. In the closing stages he played some splendid table tennis and showed form which, if it had appeared earlier, might have meant a different result, but this was Butterworth's night, and his forehand hitting deservedly won him the title.

At Dingle Vale possibly the two best matches of all were the semi-finals of the mixed doubles, as the

# ONLY ONE TITLE HELD

result of which B. Hand and M. Jones and P. Rumjahn and E. Mansell came through to the final by defeating R. M. and L. Rumjahn and V. Chesham and M. Willcox respectively. The all-round standard of play in these two matches was extremely high, giving hope of an especially good final, hopes which I am bound to say, were not altogether realised.

Hand and Moya Jones in winning two straight, were the only holders to retain their title, and they won quite comfortably although Peter and Eileen did make a valiant effort and forced a deuce in the second game. The Bohemians pair hit well however, Moya not being behind in this respect in any way, and this was the deciding factor. Peter and Eileen seemed to find the floor a considerable problem, slipping and sliding frequently, but I really cannot have much sympathy for them as assuming they watched the first match of the evening, it should have been clear that a wet rag for the soles of the shoes was a "must" for this hall and they should have acted accordingly.

In the earlier stages of the men's doubles, Frank Varty and Frank Thomas beat Hetherington and Harris, which appeared most significant, for in that match they looked a combination capable of winning the title. I was not altogether prepared for their defeat in the semi-final, but Ted Rumjahn and Arthur Taylor did it, and this proved to be the nearest that sponge reached to a major title. Counter-hitting saw the other semi-finalists, Hand and Chesham, through against P. and R. Rumjahn, but it was a mighty close call, for having lost the first game, only two points separated them from defeat in the second at one stage. In the final they kept to similar tactics, but, too anxious to indulge in fierce hitting, a winning advantage was thrown away in the first game, and after that they were never in the hunt. Ted and Arthur went their serene way and were comfortable winners.

Once again it was the twins for the women's doubles title, and so far as I saw they were never

seriously threatened at any time, though they had to be at their very best in removing the holders, Jones and Willcox.

Lamb and Waterson, their opponents in the final, had one narrow squeak when they just overcame Benson and Murphy 23-21 in the third, and in the final never really looked like pulling it off. Pinky made some mistakes but as a pair the twins looked well on top and so regained a title which a few years ago had apparently become their permanent property.

The programme was rounded off most pleasantly when the massive men's singles cup was presented to Ted Rumjahn, by a diminutive and slightly bewildered Leslie Rumjahn, who although obviously very pleased, was clearly quite unused to such limelight, but it was an evening which must have been very gratifying to his father who may well consider this his most satisfying tournament ever.

Details of the finals evening were:

Men's Singles

Semi-finals: E. J. Rumjahn bt A. C. Taylor 15-21, 21-17, 21-17; L. Mulholland bt R. M. Rumjahn 22-24, 21-19, 21-18.

Final: Rumjahn bt Mulholland 21-13, 21-17.

Women's Singles

Final: K. Casselman bt B. Waterson 21-15, 21-19.

Men's Doubles

Final: E. J. Rumjahn and A. C. Taylor bt B. Hand and V. Chesham 22-20, 21-12.

Women's Doubles

Final: K. Casselman and L. Rumjahn bt B. Waterson and N. Lamb 21-19, 21-12.

Mixed Doubles

Final: B. Hand and M. Jones bt P. U. Rumjahn and E. Mansell 21-18, 22-20.

Junior Singles

Final: D. Butterworth bt J. Cain 21-19, 21-19.

Men's Consolation

Final: J. Coveney bt J. Lovelady 21-14, 21-15.

Women's Consolation

Final: B. Black bt T. McCabe 21-13, 17-21, 21-14.

# LEAGUE TABLES

(Including January 5th, 1957)

## Division 1

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Rafters . . . . .	11	10	1	0	88	22	20
Balfour . . . . .	11	9	0	2	81	29	20
Linnets . . . . .	11	7	3	1	74	36	15
Oakhill . . . . .	11	5	4	2	52	58	12
Bath Street . . . . .	11	5	5	1	52	58	11
Bohemians . . . . .	11	4	5	2	53	57	10
Victoria Pk. . . . .	11	4	6	1	48	62	9
L'pool Y.M. . . . .	11	4	7	0	45	65	8
Bootle Y.M. . . . .	11	3	7	1	47	63	7
Anfield . . . . .	11	3	7	1	44	66	7
Balfour A . . . . .	11	2	6	3	42	68	7
Litherland . . . . .	11	1	6	4	34	76	6

## Division 5

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Rafters B . . . . .	10	10	0	0	81	19	20
L'pool Y.M. B . . . . .	10	7	3	0	59	41	14
Bohemians B . . . . .	9	6	2	1	58	32	13
Fairlawn . . . . .	10	5	3	2	54	46	12
Victoria Pk B . . . . .	10	4	4	2	54	46	10
Bootle Y.M. B . . . . .	9	4	3	2	48	42	10
Balfour B . . . . .	10	4	4	2	50	50	10
Anfield B . . . . .	9	2	3	4	43	47	8
Victoria Pk C . . . . .	10	2	6	2	37	63	6
Wvtree C.C. A . . . . .	9	1	8	0	21	69	2
Oakhill B . . . . .	10	0	9	1	25	75	1

## Division 2

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
L'pool Y.M. A . . . . .	11	9	2	0	79	31	18
Rafters A . . . . .	11	8	3	0	72	38	16
Bootle Y.M. A . . . . .	11	8	3	0	62	48	16
Bohemians A . . . . .	11	6	2	3	64	46	15
Cadwa . . . . .	11	6	3	2	65	45	14
I.C.I. . . . .	11	4	3	4	60	50	12
Victoria Pk A . . . . .	11	5	5	1	50	60	11
Panto . . . . .	11	3	4	4	51	59	10
L.P.A.S. . . . .	11	2	6	3	41	69	7
Oakhill A . . . . .	11	2	7	2	34	76	6
Anfield A . . . . .	11	1	8	2	38	72	4
Lucem . . . . .	11	1	9	1	42	68	3

## Division 6

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
G.L.S.C. . . . .	11	11	0	0	89	21	22
Harold House . . . . .	11	9	1	1	84	26	19
Litherland B . . . . .	11	7	3	1	69	41	15
Rafters C . . . . .	11	5	2	4	71	39	14
Rankin A . . . . .	10	6	4	0	44	56	12
Bootle Y.M. C . . . . .	10	4	3	3	52	48	11
Cadwa B . . . . .	11	5	5	1	57	53	11
Waterloo Pk A . . . . .	11	4	6	1	54	56	9
Balfour C . . . . .	11	3	6	2	38	72	8
Rankin . . . . .	10	0	7	3	29	71	3
Anfield C . . . . .	11	1	9	1	25	85	3
Domestic Mis. . . . .	10	0	9	1	28	72	1

## Division 3

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Linnets A . . . . .	11	9	2	0	87	23	18
Waterloo Dk . . . . .	11	8	1	2	81	29	18
Litherland A . . . . .	10	8	2	0	58	42	16
Lofters . . . . .	11	6	4	1	60	50	13
Maghull . . . . .	11	6	4	1	59	51	13
Waterloo Pk . . . . .	11	5	4	2	56	54	12
Linacre . . . . .	11	5	6	0	52	58	10
English Elec. . . . .	11	3	7	1	41	69	7
Cadwa A . . . . .	10	2	6	2	35	65	6
Everton Y.M. . . . .	11	2	7	2	46	64	6
Osterley . . . . .	11	2	7	2	38	72	6
African Oil . . . . .	11	2	8	1	37	73	5

## Women's Division 1

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Bohemians . . . . .	11	9	1	1	80	30	19
Rafters . . . . .	10	8	2	0	72	28	16
Balfour . . . . .	10	7	3	0	59	41	14
Waterloo Pk . . . . .	9	5	3	1	49	41	11
Cadwa . . . . .	12	2	7	3	37	83	7
Oakhill . . . . .	10	1	6	3	37	63	5
Bath Street . . . . .	9	1	6	2	36	54	4
Bibbys . . . . .	11	0	7	4	37	75	4

## Division 4

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Dunlop . . . . .	11	9	1	1	88	22	19
Wavertree C.C. . . . .	11	9	2	0	76	34	18
University . . . . .	11	9	2	0	72	38	18
Bath St. A . . . . .	11	6	3	2	67	43	14
Warbreck . . . . .	11	6	4	1	56	54	13
R.A.F.A. . . . .	11	5	5	1	53	57	11
Aigburth . . . . .	11	5	6	0	55	55	10
Brenka . . . . .	11	5	6	0	46	64	10
Beauclair . . . . .	11	4	6	1	47	63	9
L.P.A.S. A . . . . .	11	2	7	2	37	73	6
Panto A . . . . .	11	2	9	0	42	68	4
Tech. Students . . . . .	11	0	11	0	21	89	0

## Women's Division 2

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Linnetts . . . . .	11	11	0	0	98	12	22
African Oil . . . . .	11	8	1	2	76	34	18
Rafters A . . . . .	11	8	3	0	63	47	16
Domestic Mis. . . . .	10	7	3	0	64	36	14
Cadwa A . . . . .	11	6	5	0	62	48	12
Bibbys A . . . . .	11	6	5	0	58	52	12
Linnetts A . . . . .	11	4	4	3	57	53	11
Waterloo Dk . . . . .	11	3	6	2	47	63	8
Bohemians A . . . . .	11	4	7	0	43	67	8
Waterloo Pk A . . . . .	11	1	8	2	32	78	4
Dunlop . . . . .	11	1	9	1	28	82	3
Oakhill A . . . . .	10	0	8	2	22	78	2

# LEAGUE TABLES

North Region							
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Co-op . . . . .	9	7	0	2	58	32	16
Litherland C . .	9	7	2	0	66	24	14
Bath St. C . . .	9	5	3	1	46	44	11
Bath St. B . . .	9	4	3	2	50	40	10
Brenka A . . . .	9	4	3	2	47	43	10
Waterloo Pk B	8	4	4	0	42	38	8
Lofters A . . . .	8	3	4	1	41	39	7
Warbreck A . . .	9	2	5	1	46	44	7
Bootle Nalگو . .	9	1	6	2	32	58	4
Orrell . . . . .	9	0	8	1	12	78	1

South Region							
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Sefton . . . . .	8	7	0	1	64	16	15
Linnets B . . . .	9	6	0	3	65	25	15
Florence Oxton	8	4	0	4	50	30	12
Stanley House	9	4	2	3	53	37	11
Aigburth A . . .	9	5	4	0	49	41	10
Dunlop A . . . .	9	4	4	1	47	43	9
Linnets C . . . .	9	4	4	1	42	48	9
Wavertree Lab	9	2	6	1	34	56	5
Bedford . . . . .	9	1	8	0	23	67	2
St. Michaels . .	9	0	9	0	13	77	0

East Region							
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Lussac . . . . .	9	8	1	0	60	30	16
Lucem A . . . . .	9	7	1	1	59	31	15
R.A.F. Movs . .	9	7	2	0	62	28	14
L'pool Y.M. C . .	9	6	3	0	59	31	12
Ebani . . . . .	10	5	5	0	57	43	10
Waterloo Dk A	8	4	3	1	46	34	9
Tech. Studs. A .	9	3	5	1	44	45	7
Panto B . . . . .	9	2	5	2	34	65	6
Tech. Studs. B .	9	1	7	1	20	70	3
A'gburth B . . .	10	1	9	0	25	75	2
L'pool Y.M. D . .	3	0	3	0	4	26	0

Central Region							
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts
Behemians C . .	11	10	1	0	85	25	20
Huntley & P . .	11	8	2	1	78	32	17
Cadwa C . . . .	11	7	4	0	74	36	15
Bohemians D . .	11	7	3	1	70	40	15
Nalگو . . . . .	11	7	3	1	67	43	15
L.P.A.S. B . . .	11	7	3	1	63	47	15
Artistes . . . .	11	4	4	3	60	50	11
West Derby . . .	10	4	4	2	52	48	10
Beauchair A . .	11	2	8	1	28	82	5
English Elec A	11	2	9	0	32	78	4
Stoneycroft . .	11	1	9	1	30	80	3
Huntley & P A	10	0	10	0	11	89	0

he will have access to the table after all other members have finished. If keen on work he will be in an excellent position to test his capacity to the full. This is a full-time appointment.

# Net Cords

## BY POST

**FALSE REPORT.** It is understood that the suggestion that organisers of open tournaments are to receive a photograph of England's No. 1 male player, as per the new E.T.T.A. ranking list, is without foundation. The supposed reason for this photograph was so that the said player would be recognised if by chance he appeared in a tournament in this country.

**RECEIVED.** The Concrete Clay and Cement Co. have sent us their latest table tennis bat to try out. It is of an entirely new design and is claimed by the makers to be the last word in any language.

Taking advantage of the I.T.T.F. rules, whereby no limit is placed on size or material, the C.C.C. & C. have certainly produced something a little different. Instead of the usual rubber or sponge on a wooden base, this new bat has a brick foundation with a covering of several layers of cotton wool. The wool is impregnated with barbed wire, with the result that the angle the ball is returned to your opponent is most interesting. It has been found that the bat is invaluable in speeding up one's reactions when used across the thigh and can be most effective in keeping your doubles partner up to scratch.

There are two models, the standard and the de luxe. The de luxe has a handle.

**ADVERT.** Secretary required for table tennis club. Must be qualified brusher and washer up and able to supply and make tea at home matches. Unlimited patience in informing members when and where to turn out for matches a necessary qualification. A slight knowledge of the League rules, plus the ability to explain to the Management Committee how any or all of their communications get lost in the post an asset.

The successful applicant will be required to pay the club's full subscription, along with all other expenses connected with his duties. In return for these duties

(Continued in preceding column)



## Balfour's Fine Win

**B**Y their defeat of Rafter's, Balfour have once again put themselves well in the running for the League championship title. The key to this match was the double defeat of R. M. Rumjahn, each time two-straight by Hetherington and N. Jones, and it must have been a real blow to the morale of the side. Balfour's win was very complete for of their seven sets, six were in two-straight, while all of Rafter's successes were in three.

In passing, W. Wong, now playing regularly, is having a splendid season, and he again won his two sets comfortably. The two sides are now level on points, and Balfour must be sorry for the two unexpected draws they had earlier in the season. They could well be vital in the final reckoning.

The struggle at the foot of the table continues to be bitter. Now it is Anfield who must watch out, for they have, in succession, been beaten by Balfour A and Bootle Y.M. and these were both "4-point" matches. Liverpool Y.M. are another side who must be careful. They too are dropping points against lowly clubs, and it would be impossible to hazard any guess as to which two it will be who are to be relegated.

Bootle Y.M. with two wins from their last two matches, now look like making a real effort to stay in the division. Almost completely lacking in experience of top grade play until this season, it will be a fine performance if they can pull it off.

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**T**HE halfway stage leaves the championship question still far from solved in the second division, where at least five sides are in with a very good chance of medals.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A, strengthened by the inclusion of Des Loughrey, have a nose in front at the moment. They have lost John Cain to the first division but have a probably steadier player replacement in Bill Bintley.

Rafter's A are perhaps their strongest challengers, although Peter Short and Clint Casselman have not entirely set Prince's Park on fire. Joe Lovelady's steadiness has had much to do with the Bentley Road success.

Down at Bootle hopes of equalling the Balfour position of two first division teams, are not yet dead. Ralph Gunnion is beginning to win sets more consistently than was the case earlier in the season.

Doug West's success keeps Bohemians A in the promotion race and Alan Rycroft continues to win regularly at No. 5. At Cadwa things are going nicely thanks to the resurgence of Rennie Crafter, steadiness of the younger Brackley and, above all, the excellent performances of Ted Mandeluff, who has not lost a set since his return to No. 1 in the third week of the season.

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**I**T is often said that one man cannot make a team, but the performances of African Oil suggest there must be something in theory. In League matches they are having a most difficult time, and are in serious danger of relegation from Division 3, yet they have reached the last eight of the Rumjahn Cup, beating the very powerful Rafter's B in the process.

In that match, and in another cup tie, they had the assistance of Frank Varty, and there can be little doubt his presence made all the difference. The way things are going his help in a few League matches as well would be invaluable.

Linnets A have already entered the semi-final of the Rumjahn by beating GLSC 10-0, and they must have an outstanding chance of winning the trophy so long as the menace of the University is not forgotten.

Linacre have been in this division for some time now, with a side that hardly ever varies, but the improved performances by F. Lacey are noteworthy. If his colleagues could similarly improve they might yet achieve an even higher placing than last season, when for the first time in a long while they finished in the top half of the table.

It is rather difficult to understand why Everton Y.M. are continuing to languish, for they should be able to draw on a big pool of enthusiasts, but they have to their credit the shock result of the season for, since last month, they defeated the mighty Linnets by 6-4.

# A THREE-TEAM BATTLE

**I**T would appear that the fourth division is developing into a three-horse race, for Dunlop, Wavertree and the University have already outstripped the other sides. Dunlop look like champions. Their regular five of Killip, Oakes, Mason, Williamson and Cashin have dropped only twelve league sets between them.

Wavertree are having their best season for some time. Siddall's sponge bat has won many sets at No. 1, while in Ellis, the University have probably the best player in the division and he receives good backing from Jones and Said.

Bath Street A are perhaps the best of the also rans, despite some weaknesses high in the order. They appear to have unearthed a promising youngster with the familiar name of Al Read. Warbreck, strengthened by new signings Christie and Rees, however, will go strong for fourth place. Kilshaw has a good sets record in the top position, as also have Robinson and Brown for R.A.F.A. but the latter's tail weaknesses prevent them from appearing likely to achieve anything more than a respectable position.

Greatest improvement of recent weeks has been at Beauclair. They took one point from their first six matches and eight from their last five.

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**I**T is always dangerous to forecast, but it will be a surprise if Liverpool Y.M. B do not prove themselves a strong side during the second half of the season. With R. Owen and J. Davies now in the team and Sind accustoming himself to league play, they will take a good deal of holding. But there seems no reason to suppose that Rafter's B are likely to be affected at the top of Division 5, for having one of the few 100 per cent records in the League, they can afford to drop a point or two without being unduly worried.

Anfield B are another side who should benefit from regrouping, Reg Royle and P. Lawrenson now being in the side, and recent results suggest they already are making a difference to the strength of the side.

The absence of L. Carter from the Fairlawn side in recent weeks

must be a handicap, but Leeson, Partington and Sanders are a useful trio and should make Fairlawn a difficult side to beat, and it is surprising that matches against the better sides have usually resulted in decisive defeats.

Down at the foot of the table there is no sign of a revival by Wavertree, though they were only defeated 4-6 by Rafter's, and it looks as though their companions in distress are going to be Oakhill B. If ever there was a side who played the game for enjoyment, this is it.

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**I**N league matches, G.L.S.C. have now recorded their 33rd successive victory, having won every match since joining the League, and the time has almost come to ask, is this a record? No similar case comes to mind, but they had some indication of the heights to be scaled in the future, for against Linnets A in the Rumjahn Cup, they were heavily defeated although putting up a valiant fight.

One of the reasons for the success of Harold House in Division 6 has been the form of B. Jacobs, who is showing himself to be one of the best juniors in the district. As the general age of the side is decidedly low, it is reasonable to hope for great things from this side.

Reshuffling of the Balfour teams has resulted in K. McKechnie joining the C team and the improvement has been immediate, for the last four matches have resulted in the collection of six points, two more than in the previous seven matches. As McKechnie has won seven of his eight sets, his presence has been an important reason, though Hardcastle and Watson have also certainly played their part.

Bootle Y.M. always seem to produce useful youngsters, and this season the progress of P. Keating demands attention. A successful contender in the Eagle and Girls tournament last year, he has been beaten only three times this season, and on his present form might well be capable of playing higher in the order than No. 5. Though this C team is mainly a junior side, there are plenty of possibilities among its members, and they may produce some surprises in the second half of the season.

# WATERLOO'S STRONG No. 4

SO little is seen of sponge in the Women's Division that it has been interesting to see how B. Kane, of Cadwa, progressed after her promotion from the A team. Her general record is not sensational, but her potential to beat players with much better records, is something to be respected as some have discovered to their cost.

Balfour have suffered a blow in the loss of Julie Roberts, who at the moment is in hospital, but reserve strength may be good enough to prevent any weaknesses, and it is up to M. Atkinson and J. Hughes to make the most of the opportunity.

Bohemians slipped up against Waterloo Park by dropping a point, but beat them 7-3 a few days later. In these two matches J. Fortune was a tower of strength for the Park winning all four sets. She must be nearly the strongest No. 4 in the division on this season's form. In league matches she has been beaten only by B. Ellam.

With so many clubs having settled on their best doubles combinations, Bibbys appear to be finding it impossible to discover regular pairs. Claue and Brown are usually together, without achieving much success, but apart from them Bibbys have had eleven other combinations and have won just four sets out of a possible 16.

Favourable comment has been made at the stylish play of B. Hardacre, Bath Street's No. 3, despite her poor results. Here is a player who may do better in the second half. Bath Street are having their difficulties, but J. Newell, at least, is more than holding her own.

THE big match of the month in the Women's Second Division was Linnets and African Oil, for the championship probably depended on the result. Linnets won comfortably and it still seems unlikely that they can be deposed from their leadership unless something unexpected happens. They have dropped only 12 sets in 11 matches, with six 10-0 victories.

Following the note made last month, it was interesting to see A. Payne and M. Connolly, from the South Region side, playing for Dunlop in the last match before Christmas. The result was very

gratifying—a 9-1 win over Waterloo Dock, to give them their first victory of the season. If Dunlop continue to turn out this side they will not remain at the foot of the table much longer.

The up and down form of Cadwa takes some explaining, victories and defeats following in almost unvarying succession. They are a most unpredictable side, yet on their best form days they are very difficult to defeat.

Waterloo Dock are lacking strength to give them a reasonable placing and are having to rely on Nan Lamb far too much. Although M. Poole and M. Connor have done well at times, there cannot be any hopes of sensations from this team.

Domestic Mission, with no outstanding players, are nevertheless having a pretty successful season. They had an unexpected 2-8 defeat by Bibbys A, but apart from expected defeats by Linnets and African Oil they have won their remaining matches. Patterson and Nickson have developed into a very sound doubles pair.

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CO-OP still lead the North Region, doubtless finding past experience standing them in good stead. R. D. Jones has taken much weight in the top positions. It is significant that when he has failed, the team have dropped points.

Litherland C chase them hard. Johnson, a recent discovery, maybe has done well, but perhaps the Litherland committee might ask themselves if the playing of Keith Anderson in this side is strictly ethical.

Bath Street B look a good side on paper, and Ted Jane, ex-English Electric, is winning many sets, well supported by Fred Plumbley. They are, however, only a nose in front of their own C team, for whom Ted Halsall and Alan White have been the stars.

Billy Miller and Mrs. Cantwell have improved the outlook at Brenka, where the A team have taken seven of the last eight points available to them. Waterloo Park B have been inconsistent, but the recent signing of Platt may put things right.

Lofters A are well led by McDermott but his support has not been of the best since Ken Corey was promoted.

# HUYTON TRIO'S GOOD RECORD

**L**AST season Bedford were one of the best sides in the South region and their decline has been disappointing. A general lack of enthusiasm has resulted in defeat in every match, apart from a 6-4 win over lowly St. Michael's.

It is sad to find St. Michael's struggling so hard without success as they are a club with great traditions.

Companions in distress are Wavertree Labour, who are again finding it difficult to strike a winning vein. If only better support was given to N. Hambleton, their No. 1, they might yet improve their rather dismal record.

By the time these notes are read most of the third round Hyde Cup ties will have been decided, and it may be a little too much to expect all three South representatives to get through to the semi-final.

Sefton General, in meeting Huntley and Palmers, encounter a side doing well in their first season and will do well to win, but it is Florence Oxtou, meeting Bohemians C, who may find it more difficult to reach the next round. The return recently of E. Moran might easily change the team from merely useful to being very good.

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**B**OHEMIANS C appear to be the best of the East Region sides, with Troake outstanding and Barbara Tomkinson, who has dropped only two league sets, a very steady No. 5.

The Bohs look all set for divisional status next season but Huntley and Palmer, who beat them, may have different ideas. In Gaskell, Campbell and Naomi Sibley, the Huyton team have three players who have won five or more sets between them on six occasions.

Bunched together are Cadwa C, Bohemians D, Nalگو and Police B. For the first-named Billy Crafter has been playing well, while Bohemians D are well served by Lou Cohen, while Cliff Barton and Stirzaker have also gained good local reputations.

Nalگو owe most to Brown, Mellor and Burgess, while Police B, the most successful of the Police teams, must thank Balmer, Wardale and Catterson for their accomplishments. What about giving them a run in the A team, Alan?

Artistes and West Derby seem comfortably placed, the former thanks to Boyle and Byrne and the latter to B. Hill and Hughes.

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**T**HE Lucem A-Lussac match proved to be most interesting, apart from its important bearing on the Central Region championship. In fact, the Bold Street side gained what can be described as a hollow victory, Maddocks and Seymour being the only ones to drop a set.

With a further win over Technical Students B the following week, Lucem seem to be well on the way to taking the title, and may take a deal of holding. Not far behind however are R.A.F. (Movements) and they cannot be forgotten, so it now looks like a three-cornered struggle between this trio.

Liverpool Y.M. D have now joined the region. Match play and experience is the aim of the side, with hopes of more success next season.

Technical Students A appear to be a side who might do better in the New Year. They have been at the wrong end of a number of 6-4 defeats just recently, and if some of those matches had gone the other way, they might well have been among the leaders. K. Partington is always liable to beat more fancied players.

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## Mr. ARTHUR VINT O.B.E.

May we extend, on behalf of the League, sincere congratulations to Mr. Arthur (Bill) Vint, honorary treasurer of the E.T.T.A., on his being made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honours.

No one, we feel, could have been more deserving of having such an honour conferred upon him, no matter in what connection. For years Mr. Vint has been untiring in his efforts for table tennis and his readiness to take over the honorary secretaryship of our national association on the sudden death of Mr. Bill Pope, was just another example of how much time and energy he has always been willing to give to the game. It was with great regret that he found it impossible to continue his dual tasks and had to relinquish the secretaryship.

# Leading Averages

**B**ELOW are the leading averages of players other than those who have appeared at Nos. 1 or 2 in two-thirds of their matches, and provide the supplement to last month's list. Qualification is 14 sets, and include League and Cup matches up to January 5th. Again tolerance is requested for statistics which had to be compiled in minimum time, and which may contain the odd error.

Division 1	P.	W.	%
L. Davies (Balf) . . .	28	26	92.85
W. Wong (Balf) . . .	26	23	86.46
P. U. Rumjahn (Raft) . . .	26	22	84.61
D. Hobbs (Linn) . . .	24	20	83.33
F. Thomas (Linn) . . .	30	24	80.00
D. Ferguson (Raft) . . .	26	20	76.92
D. Butterworth (V.Pk) . . .	26	16	69.23
J. Cain (Lpl YM) . . .	16	11	68.75

Division 2	P.	W.	%
A. Rycroft (Bohs A) . . .	26	23	88.46
F. Salmon (I.C.I.) . . .	24	20	83.33
D. Loughrey (L YM A) . . .	14	11	78.57
I. Lovelady (Raft A) . . .	26	20	76.92
D. West (Bohs A) . . .	26	20	76.92
K. Davies (Luцем) . . .	18	12	66.66
D. Ridgway (Raft A) . . .	24	16	66.66

Division 3	P.	W.	%
I. Roach (Linn A) . . .	28	25	89.28
T. Marsden (Loft) . . .	24	19	79.16
A. Byrne (Wt Dk) . . .	28	21	75.00
A. Hoatson (Lith A) . . .	24	18	75.00
I. Owen (Mag A) . . .	24	18	75.00
L. Sille (Wt Dk) . . .	28	21	75.00
P. Ruane (Linn A) . . .	30	22	73.33
D. Styles (Lith A) . . .	26	19	73.07

Division 4	P.	W.	%
L. Mason (Dun) . . .	26	23	88.46
F. Williamson (Dun) . . .	26	21	80.73
W. Bent (Bath St A) . . .	26	20	76.92
L. B. Jones (Univ) . . .	30	23	76.67
D. Inge (Wav C.C.) . . .	28	21	75.00
D. Tarr (Wav C.C.) . . .	28	21	75.00
I. Cashin (Dun) . . .	28	20	71.43
A. Reid (Bath St. A) . . .	28	20	71.43

Division 5	P.	W.	%
W. Lamb (Raft B) . . .	22	21	95.45
G. Sanders (Fairlawn) . . .	22	17	77.27
G. Jones (Lpl YM B) . . .	20	15	75.00
A. Montgomery (RftB) . . .	28	21	75.00
I. Rose V Pk B) . . .	22	16	72.72
E. Caird (Raft B) . . .	20	14	70.00
I. Fearnis (Balf B) . . .	16	11	68.75
M. Willcox (Bohs B) . . .	14	9	64.28

Division 6	P.	W.	%
P. Keating (B YM C) . . .	20	17	85.00
T. Faneran (GLSC) . . .	30	23	76.66
L. Schamis (Har H) . . .	28	21	75.00
E. Howgate (GLSC) . . .	26	19	73.07
A. Cohen (Har H) . . .	30	21	70.00
L. Rumjahn (Rft C) . . .	26	18	69.23
K. Ainsworth (Lith B) . . .	26	17	65.38
F. McGinty (B YM C) . . .	22	14	63.63

North	P.	W.	%
F. Plumbley (Bath St B) . . .	22	16	72.73
W. Shaw (Lpl Co-op) . . .	20	14	70.00
R. Reynolds (WrMrA) . . .	22	15	68.18
E. Cantwell (Bren A) . . .	24	16	66.66
A. Guy (Bren A) . . .	18	12	66.66
G. Raymond (L Co-op) . . .	20	13	65.00
A. White (Bath St C) . . .	14	9	64.28
B. Brimble (WrMrA) . . .	22	14	63.64

South	P.	W.	%
J. Cawley (Fl Ox) . . .	14	12	85.71
C. Bickerton (Sef Gen) . . .	20	17	85.00
G. Walker (Lin B) . . .	20	17	85.00
A. Douglas (Sef Gen) . . .	20	16	80.00
K. Dutch (Lin B) . . .	16	12	75.00
R. McCarten (Fl Ox) . . .	20	15	75.00
J. Evans (Aig A) . . .	20	14	70.00
A. Payne (Dun A) . . .	20	14	70.00

East	P.	W.	%
D. Troake (Bohs C) . . .	24	23	95.83
N. Sibley (H & P) . . .	20	17	85.00
L. Cohen (Bohs D) . . .	22	18	81.82
W. Crafter (Cad C) . . .	22	18	81.82
S. Stirzaker (Bohs D) . . .	16	13	81.25
R. Mellor (Nalگو) . . .	20	16	80.00
D. Lvthgoe (Cad C) . . .	20	15	75.00
J. Brown (Nalگو) . . .	22	16	72.73

Central	P.	W.	%
K. Tinsley (Luc A) . . .	18	16	88.88
H. Holmes (Luss) . . .	20	17	85.00
D. Eaton (L YM C) . . .	22	17	77.27
W. Holmes (Luss) . . .	20	15	75.00
J. Millin (Wat Dk A) . . .	20	15	75.00
P. Sutton (Ebani) . . .	14	10	71.42
E. Kneale (Luss) . . .	20	14	70.00
R. Tyler (Luc A) . . .	20	14	70.00

Women's 1	P.	W.	%
E. Loughrey (Raft) . . .	24	19	79.16
O. Dickenson (Balf) . . .	20	15	75.00
I. Roberts (Balf) . . .	20	15	75.00
K. Rumjahn (Raft) . . .	24	17	70.83
I. Fortune (Wat P) . . .	14	9	64.28
I. Jones (Balf) . . .	20	12	60.00
B. Tomkinson (Bohs) . . .	24	14	58.33

Ladies 2	P.	W.	%
L. Wynne (Linn) . . .	26	24	92.30
M. O'Donnell (Linn) . . .	20	18	90.00
M. Barrett (African Oil) . . .	18	12	66.66
S. Jones (Cad A) . . .	18	12	66.66
F. Falvey (Dom M) . . .	20	13	65.00
F. Hook (Cad A) . . .	14	9	64.28
I. Lee (Linn A) . . .	16	10	62.50
P. Smith (Bibb A) . . .	24	15	62.50