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**TABLE  
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DIGEST**

*Official Magazine*

OF THE

**LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

# TABLE *Digest* TENNIS

All correspondence must be addressed to The Editor, "Table Tennis Digest", 9 Podium Road, L'pool 13

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Vol. VIII

1st November, 1957

No. 1

## A GREAT LOSS

IT is with no apology that we open our comments this season on a sad note—the passing of our late organising secretary and treasurer, Bill Stamp. For the vast majority of us Bill Stamp was such a large part of the League—indeed, it would only be a slight exaggeration to say that he was the League—that it will take us some time to become accustomed to the absence of his familiar burly figure from our various events and activities.

It would be very difficult to assess just how much of his life Bill Stamp devoted to table tennis in general and to the Liverpool League in particular during his twenty-odd years as an official. With that thoroughness which was so dominant a part of his character, he threw himself wholeheartedly into the task of making our League something of which all members could be proud and to the furtherance of the game generally, that he could have had little time left for other interests. It was his very thoroughness that made it so difficult for him to understand why so many other people in the League could not display just a little of the same enthusiasm.

As an administrator the League could count itself fortunate in having so capable a hand at the helm to guide its fortunes, and it was undoubtedly due to his determination and energy that a strong organisation rose on the foundations laid by Les Forrest and that the Liverpool League remained a living thing during the difficult days of the last war.

Under his guidance it went from strength to strength. His fertile mind was for ever planning for the enriching of his child, and if at times his plans seemed to many less-bold-minded people to be ambitious, it must be remembered that he was only ambitious for the League and for the good of table tennis.

By his great endeavours he has bequeathed to us a rich heritage. Surely then, there could be no finer memorial to him than that the members of our organisation should not only strive to maintain its high standard but to follow his example and work for its betterment. The present season can show whether they are willing to live up to the last call he made upon them, when at the annual general meeting in May just before his death, he appealed for the game to be played in a good sporting manner; that clubs should conduct themselves in a way worthy of great sporting traditions and so make compulsion by rules unnecessary.

Response to that can be the memorial to Bill Stamp, to an official who never grudged one moment of the time he devoted to the League and to a personality whose every thought was for the benefit of the game. While history will record Les Forrest as the founder of our League, it will also record Bill Stamp as the builder.

Just how much he will be missed may not be fully realised by the great mass of our ordinary members, but those who will realise are the people left behind to carry on his work—the members of the Management Committee. And it is up to every one in the League to give them loyal support so as to enable them to carry out their task with the same smooth efficiency that so marked the regime of their mentor.

## UMPIRES WANTED - HELP US

by Jack McKim

ONCE again we are holding one of the area rounds of the Eagle and Girl tournament in Liverpool. It will be played at the Bootle Y.M.C.A., Stanley Road, on Saturday, December 7, commencing at 10 a.m.

If you have a few hours to spare, please come along and do a spot of umpiring for us. A meal will be provided for those who can stay for both morning and afternoon sessions.

Owing to the large number of handbook alterations which have taken place since the handbook meeting, I am taking this opportunity of bringing everyone up to date. Will all players and secretaries, therefore, please note that the following are not a repetition of the alterations announced at the meeting. These include certain alterations made at the meeting which have now been cancelled. Five or ten minutes spent now checking your handbook with this list, may save a fruitless journey later in the season.

**Aigburth:** B team withdrawn from South Region.

**Anfield:** Women's team entered in Div. 2, match night Wednesday, taking over A fixture.

**Anfield:** Women's A team take over B Fixtures in Women's Div. 2.

**Bootle Y.M.C.A.:** New sec. L. Cairns, 30 Hertford Road, Bootle.

**Bohemians:** D team withdrawn from East Region. Bus routes are now 60, 81, 74d, 12, 12a, 12d.

**Cadwa:** Delete home phone number.

**Crawfords:** Sandown Hall, Olive Lane, Liverpool 15. Buses 116, 168, 117, 76, 79, 99 to Clock Tower.

East Region, taking over West Derby A fixtures. Match night, Tuesday. Sec.: T. H. Edge, c/o Wm. Crawford & Sons Ltd., address as above. Phones: Office Sto 2711, ext. 219; club Chi 1217.

**Dunlops:** Men's team withdrawn from Division 3.

**L.B.A. Old Boys:** Withdrawn, delete from Div. 6 fixtures.

**Liverpool Co-op.:** Delete all bus routes to Higher Lane.

**Fairlawn:** Change of bus routes to 12 and 74d and 60 and 81.

**L.P.A.S.:** Home phone should be Huy 4017.

**Maghull:** 1st team match night Wednesday. A team entered in North Region, match night Wednesday, take over A fixture.

**Oakhill:** New sec., J. L. Roberts, 30 Lilley Rd., Fairfield, Liverpool 7 Phone: home Anf 3370. Women's team now in the League, details as handbook. C team entered in East Region, taking over Bohemians D fixtures, match night, Tuesday.

**Rafters:** Change of all match nights as follows: 1st and B teams Wednesday; C team Monday; A and women's A team Thursday; women's 1st Tuesday.

**Victoria Park:** D team match night Monday, taking over A fixture South Region.

**Waterloo Park:** Change of match nights to 1st and A teams, Monday, B team Wednesday.

**West Derby Y.H.A.:** New secretary, A. C. Lambert, 6 and 8 Hill Street, Liverpool 8. Phone G.P.O. 3138. A team withdrawn from East Region.

## 2d. an hour Entertainment

By J. H. C. Hughes

**A**MONG the entries for the 19th Merseyside Open Championships, which are to be played at Dunlops, Speke, on November 8 and 9, are England's two No. 1 ranking players, Brian Kennedy and Ann Haydon.

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"New faces" has long been the cry in table tennis and just before going to Press we can announce that two new faces, and players of outstanding ability, will be seen in the Merseyside.

They are Hungarians, Joseph Somogyi and G. Muranyi, now refugees in this country.

Somogyi has been ranked No. 4 in Britain but since arriving here he has achieved a great record. He has won the South London, West Middlesex, North-East England, Surrey Open, and Sussex Open. Add to this the fact that in the English Open he beat Tsunoda, of Japan, and at Utrecht in the 1955 World Championships he knocked out the holder Ogimura in straight games.

Muranyi's ability is indicated by the fact that he reached the last 16 in the English Open, including in his victims en route Haganaeur, of France. He was only narrowly beaten by Tanaka, the present world champion.

Also coming is Kathie Best, the Yorkshire international, which means that the women's entry is going to be strong.

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Entries have also been promised from various parts of the country and Mrs Nancy Roy Evans, the Welsh T.T.A. secretary, has written

to say that they will be sending a strong challenge from Wales.

Due to the inability of obtaining suitable premises, the tournament has not been held since 1954 and many League members have expressed their regret at its absence.

Now that the Management Committee, with the help of the Dunlop Sports Co. and the Dunlop Rubber Co., have been able to revive the event, they look forward to members giving it their full support.

The conditions should be excellent, with twelve tables all in one hall. There will be good canteen facilities available throughout the tournament, including hot meals on the Saturday if required. The hours of play will be from 6 p.m. on the Friday and continuous from 10 a.m. on Saturday, with the finals at 7.30 p.m.

Now that the entertainment tax has been lifted, the Management Committee are passing on the benefit and have decided on the following prices of admission: Friday, one shilling; Saturday, all day including the finals, two shillings. This means that anyone coming along for the start of play on the Saturday morning and who stays right through to the end, will get in the region of twelve hours play for two shillings—good entertainment for twopence an hour.

With prices as low as that, coupled with the demand there has been for reviving the tournament, the Management Committee look forward to a full house at the finals.

Much hard work has gone into organising the event, so please give it your full support.

## A TALE OF THREE TEAMS

**T**HE League have again entered two men's and a ladies' team in the Lancashire and Cheshire League. Our first team finished top of Division 3 B last season, with our own A team runners-up in the same division, so that both men's teams were promoted, and are now in Division 2 South.

It has been decided to appoint a non-playing captain for each of our teams this season. Ted Rumjahn will captain the men's first team, whilst brother Peter takes the A team under his wing. Eileen Mansell will hold a similar position with the ladies' team.

We have three captains who, I think, are capable of bringing out the best in their respective teams. Ted Rumjahn with his vast experience as a player should be of great benefit to the players under him. Peter, whilst rather more quiet, commands the respect, as well he might, of all players in the league, and it is certain that he will do a good job with the A team.

Eileen, of course, is well known to all of us as a colourful and likeable personality, both on and off the table, and is still a very fine player. The ladies, I am sure, could not have a better captain.

By the time you read this article, the ladies, represented by Bluey Casselman, Beryl Waterson, and Moya Jones, ought to have played their J. M. Rose Bowl tie with Stockport, and the men's A team, with Les Mulholland. Bill Harris and young Wally Allanson doing duty for us, will have played their match against Wirral A, which,

scheduled for November 2, was brought forward to October 26.

During November six matches are due to be played as follows:—

Wednesday, Nov. 13: Liverpool A v St. Helens (away).

Thursday, Nov. 14: Liverpool v Chester, at Linnets.

Friday, Nov. 22: Liverpool A v Wirral, at Victoria Park.

Friday, Nov. 29: Liverpool v Wirral A, at Cadwa.

Saturday, Nov. 30: Liverpool v Wirral (away).

In addition to these fixtures, our men will play Ellesmere Port at home on Saturday evening, 23, in the second round of the Wilmott Cup, when our team will be Ron Rumjahn, Arthur Taylor and Bill Pierce. The match will probably be played at the headquarters of the Liverpool Police Athletic Society in Anfield Road, and I hope that you will come along and support your own City team in what should prove a very interesting tie. Don't forget —**Saturday, Nov. 23 at 7 o'clock.**

The ladies have no match during November, but on Friday evening, December 6, at the Balfour Institute, they do battle with the strong Manchester side, and I feel that this will provide a really grand struggle. Last season we had the better of the Manchester girls at the same venue, and there is no reason why we ought not to complete the double. During the match the League draw will take place, so please make a note of this date also.

(Continued on Page 9)

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# Opportunity Knocked but . .

By Joe Ellison

**T**HE meeting of Panto and Rafter's A never reached a very high standard; not even a standard that ought to be found in the second division. With the exception of Mason of Panto and Lamb of Rafter's, the players on each side didn't impress.

In the first set Mason showed his ability to hit a backhand from the forehand side, to which Lovelady had no answer. It is one of those flicks which give no indication of the way it is going until it has passed an opponent. What hitting Lovelady did was erratic. It is a pity that he doesn't make better use of his height. I feel sure a little more steadiness in attack would carry him a long way.

Bill Lamb, an old campaigner, equalised for Rafter's by playing with his brains and letting the ball do the work. By making full use of the table with a mixture of defence and attack, he frequently had Ron Fowler standing on the wrong foot, and quickly disposed of him in straight games.

Unfortunately for Rafter's his example was ignored and Doug Ridgway soon found himself in trouble against George Carroll, who, at times, had him scratching for points with the result that Ridgway fell an easy victim.

The fourth set brought on Mason again, this time against Peter Short, and also provided a two-straight win for Mason. Possibly because he had played one set and was already warmed up, he was on his way to winning before Short had got his eye in.

The set between Bill Shiel (Panto) and Mike Gallagher was a close one. It went to three games, but again the Rafter's man let opportunity slip with some in-

accurate hitting and bad timing. In fact, Shiel won the set because he made the fewer number of mistakes.

At half-time Rafter's were in trouble but Lamb, playing a real captain's game in the same strain as his previous effort, disposed of Peter Anderson for a handful of points, and Short found the form I know he can produce to win an interesting three-game set with Fowler. It was probably the most evenly balanced match of the evening. Both players hit and defended with some degree of accuracy.

Rafter's, however, again slumped when Lovelady lost easily to Carroll and Ridgway showed some improvement but not sufficient to stop Shiel from beating him. So Rafter's found themselves 6-3 down and Gallagher and Anderson completing the evening's play with a three-set game in which the former found himself leading 20-12 in the third and then had to fight for his life to win it 23-21.

To sum up Rafter's went home empty-handed because they didn't make the most of their opportunities. On paper I would say they were the stronger team, but unless there is considerable improvement they are likely to remain empty-handed. Bill Lamb's problem, it would seem, is not how to get his team back into the first division but how to keep them out of the third, for on this form I wouldn't rate Panto in the promotion class this season.

A rather amusing thing happened during the match. The Rafter's players, having sat alongside the gas cooker (an odd adornment for a table tennis room), found that two taps were on, and rather satirically suggested Panto used this dope to win their home matches.

# LEAGUE TABLES

## Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
164 Linnets . . . . .	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
17 15 13 Balfour . . . . .	4	3	0	1	30	10	7
14 12 Rafters . . . . .	4	3	1	0	27	13	6
B.M.A. Victoria Park . . . . .	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
5 Bohemians . . . . .	4	2	1	1	21	19	4
8 6 3 Liverpool Y.M. . . . .	4	2	2	0	19	21	4
5 2 Cadwa . . . . .	4	2	2	0	16	24	4
Bath Street . . . . .	4	0	1	3	19	21	3
Balfour A . . . . .	4	1	2	1	18	22	3
8 6 3 Bootle Y.M. . . . .	4	1	3	0	19	21	2
5 2 L'pool Y.M. A . . . . .	4	0	3	1	9	31	1
Oakhill . . . . .	4	0	4	0	12	28	0

## Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Victoria Pk. B . . . . .	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Balfour B . . . . .	4	3	0	1	32	8	7
Fairlawn . . . . .	4	3	1	0	29	11	6
Anfield B . . . . .	4	2	0	2	19	21	5
Harold House . . . . .	4	1	1	2	23	17	4
Litherland B . . . . .	4	2	2	0	18	22	4
Victoria Pk. C . . . . .	4	2	2	0	17	23	4
Wavertree A . . . . .	4	1	2	1	15	25	3
Cadwa . . . . .	4	3	1	2	0	14	2
Waterloo Pk A . . . . .	4	0	2	2	17	23	2
Oakhill B . . . . .	3	3	0	2	1	6	2
Rafters C . . . . .	4	0	4	0	11	29	0

## Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
17 15 13 Anfield . . . . .	4	3	0	1	29	11	7
12 10 Bootle Y.M. A . . . . .	4	3	0	1	26	14	7
7 Litherland . . . . .	4	3	1	0	27	13	6
12 10 Lucem . . . . .	4	3	1	0	21	19	6
7 Panto . . . . .	4	1	1	2	19	21	4
12 10 Waterloo Dock . . . . .	3	1	1	1	15	15	2
7 Rafters A . . . . .	4	1	2	1	19	21	2
12 10 Bohemians A . . . . .	4	1	2	1	18	22	3
7 I.C.I. . . . .	3	1	1	1	12	18	2
3 1 Victoria Pk A . . . . .	4	0	2	2	17	23	2
3 Linnets A . . . . .	4	1	3	0	16	24	2
3 Anfield A . . . . .	4	0	4	0	11	29	0

## Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour C . . . . .	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Sefton . . . . .	4	3	0	0	25	5	6
Linnets B . . . . .	4	3	1	0	28	12	6
Bath Street B . . . . .	3	2	1	0	16	14	4
Anfield C . . . . .	4	2	2	0	19	21	4
L'pool Y.M. C . . . . .	3	2	1	0	18	22	4
Bohemians C . . . . .	4	3	1	1	15	15	3
Lucem A . . . . .	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
Domestic Miss. . . . .	4	0	3	1	9	31	2
Bootle Y.M. C . . . . .	4	0	4	0	13	27	0
Litherland C . . . . .	3	0	3	0	5	25	2

## Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Oakhill A . . . . .	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Waterloo Park . . . . .	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
University . . . . .	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
Lofters . . . . .	4	2	2	0	22	18	4
Linacre . . . . .	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
English Elec. . . . .	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Maghull . . . . .	3	1	2	0	18	12	2
Cadwa A . . . . .	2	1	1	0	8	12	2
Everton Y.M. . . . .	4	0	3	1	14	26	2
Litherland A . . . . .	2	0	1	1	5	15	2
L.P.A.S. . . . .	3	0	3	0	10	20	0

## Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Bohemians . . . . .	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Cadwa . . . . .	4	3	0	1	31	9	7
Bibbys . . . . .	3	3	0	0	29	1	6
Balfour . . . . .	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Bath Street . . . . .	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Rafters . . . . .	4	2	1	0	12	18	2
Linnets . . . . .	4	0	3	1	15	25	2
African Oil . . . . .	3	0	2	1	6	24	2
Cadwa A . . . . .	2	0	2	0	3	17	0
Domestic Miss. . . . .	3	0	3	0	2	28	2
Waterloo Park . . . . .	2	0	2	0	1	19	0
Oakhill . . . . .	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
209 Bootle Y.M. B . . . . .	4	0	0	28	12	8	8
12 10 Warbreck . . . . .	4	3	0	1	23	17	7
14 12 Beauclair . . . . .	4	3	1	0	26	14	6
13 11 L'pool Y.M. B . . . . .	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
11 Bohemians B . . . . .	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
11 Wavertree C . . . . .	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
11 Rafters B . . . . .	4	1	1	2	20	20	4
11 Bath Street . . . . .	4	1	2	1	19	21	3
11 R.A.F.A. . . . .	4	1	2	1	18	22	3
11 L.P.A.S. A . . . . .	4	1	3	0	18	22	2
11 Aighurth . . . . .	4	0	4	0	10	30	0
11 Panto A . . . . .	4	0	4	0	6	34	0

## Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Orrell . . . . .	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Dunlop . . . . .	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
Rafters A . . . . .	4	2	2	0	19	21	4
Bibbys A . . . . .	4	2	2	0	18	22	4
Linnets A . . . . .	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Bohemians A . . . . .	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Sefton . . . . .	2	0	1	1	8	12	2
Huntley & P. . . . .	3	0	3	0	6	24	2
Anfield . . . . .	1	0	1	0	0	10	0

# LEAGUE TABLES

## North Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
10 Warbreck A . . . . .	4	3	0	1	27	13	79
10 Bootle Nalگو . . . . .	4	3	1	0	29	11	68
10 Waterloo Dk A . . . . .	3	3	0	0	23	7	66
11 Lofters A . . . . .	3	2	0	1	19	11	59
Waterloo Pk B . . . . .	3	2	1	0	17	13	46
6 Bath Street C . . . . .	3	2	1	0	15	15	4
Belling & Lee . . . . .	3	1	1	1	17	13	35
Co-op. . . . .	3	1	0	2	16	14	25
4 R.A.F. Movs. . . . .	4	1	3	0	15	25	2
Maghull A . . . . .	3	0	3	0	10	20	82
3 English Elec A . . . . .	3	0	3	0	7	23	81
Tech Students . . . . .	4	0	4	0	5	35	0

## South Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
8 Beauclair A . . . . .	4	3	0	1	30	10	7
12 Florence Oxtou . . . . .	3	3	0	0	25	5	62
7 Wavertree Lab. . . . .	3	2	0	1	20	10	5
Linnets C . . . . .	2	2	0	0	15	5	48
10 Old Xavs. . . . .	4	2	2	0	22	18	42
Stanley House . . . . .	4	1	2	1	19	21	37
Aigburth A . . . . .	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Lussac . . . . .	3	1	1	1	12	18	87
Beauclair B . . . . .	4	1	3	0	17	23	2
2 Victoria Pk D . . . . .	4	0	3	1	12	28	1
Linnets D . . . . .	4	0	4	0	5	35	0

## East Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
7 Huntley & P. . . . .	4	4	0	0	37	3	84
6 Nalگو . . . . .	3	3	0	0	25	5	68
6 West Derby . . . . .	3	3	0	0	24	6	68
12 L.P.A.S. B . . . . .	4	3	1	0	24	16	68
6 Stoneycroft . . . . .	3	2	0	1	20	10	5
6 Nalگو A . . . . .	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
6 Telecomms . . . . .	4	1	3	0	15	25	2
6 Crawford's . . . . .	4	1	3	0	14	26	24
6 Fairlawn A . . . . .	4	1	3	0	11	29	2
6 Albrt & Wilson . . . . .	4	0	4	0	10	30	0
Huntley & P A . . . . .	4	0	4	0	5	35	0
Oakhill C . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**NOTE**—We are off to a bad start with postponements due to 'flu. All outstanding fixtures must be completed before 31st December, 1957.

# MAKE IT A SELL-OUT

By J. McCaig

**T**HERE is just about one month left to dispose of all the draw tickets which were distributed to clubs at the handbook meeting. I have not received progress reports from all clubs naturally, but I do know that one club had sold their allocation within one week; that was nice encouragement.

I am also told by Jack Grant, of Oakhill, that their allocation has been almost completely sold, while Jim Green, a past master in such money-raising efforts, tells me that he has issued all his club's allocation of tickets, and is confident of a good response from his members.

I only hope that all clubs are pulling their weight in this effort to raise funds for the League. The prize is a wonderful one for 6d., and my own experience has been that it is the simplest thing in the world to sell these tickets.

**A lot of people are making a fine effort to "sell out". Are YOU helping?**

Your club may benefit, too, as it is intended that the club to whom the winning ticket was issued will receive a mark of recognition.

I still have some books of tickets in reserve, so if anyone requires a few more, please drop me a line or ring GRE 4544. I shall be at the Merseyside Open on both days when I will accept moneys and counterfoils.

Just before the last war, the league held a draw for a wrist watch, and one club alone sold over 230 books.

(Continued from page 5)

To sum up, I foresee keen competition for places this season, particularly in our men's teams, and there may well be a trial of strength when the first team and the A team meet each other on Friday evening, December 20. The venue for this match will be published in these notes in the next issue of the Digest.



# STANDARD STILL FALLING

By E. Cameron

**F**IRST of all let us welcome the new clubs who have joined the League for the first time. These are Albright and Wright, Telecomms, Crawfords, Belling and Lee and West Derby Youths. We hope they will have a long and pleasant stay with us.

We also welcome back Technical Students with an "all is forgiven" attitude, but at the same time we warn all clubs that any serious infringement of the rules can have serious consequences.

On the debit side we are sorry to note that some well known clubs will not be participating this season. We hope that in these cases their absence will be only temporary and that we shall soon be seeing them once again. Such names as African Oil, Osterley and Brenka will be missed.

## Balfour Again

In reviewing the premier division there does not appear to be any new and serious challenge to last season's top three—Balfour, Rafters and Linnets. Possibly Liverpool Y.M.C.A. could improve, but there is nothing to indicate that the steady downward trend of standards will be arrested.

**Balfour, with Les Mulholland in his true position in the senior side, look the part to me for another championship.**

Les Davies will no doubt miss his sponge, but if he misses it too much there are plenty of A teamers ready to step into his shoes.

Cadwa and Y.M.C.A A team do not appear to be strong sides and their stay in Division 1 may well depend on other teams' weaknesses.

Having made my opening gambit, the cards are beginning to roll in and the first item of note is L. Gunnion's victory over Frank Thomas. The latter is minus sponge, of course, but that must not detract from the performance of Gunnion, who, at roughly 5 ft. nothing, has fought his way up the teams at Bootle Y.M.C.A. in grand style.

## Early Shocks

Shock results are Victoria Park's victory over the strengthened Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and the Y.M.C.A. A team's draw with Balfour. Flu has played havoc with opening fixtures. It helped the Y.M.C.A. A a lot. The regular No. 4 was absent and Butterworth, first team No. 2, was apparently the only other Y.M.C.A. man available. He won his two in the 5-5 share out.

Cadwa had a good win over Bath Street, which left only two sides without a point after the first fortnight's play.

★ ★ ★

**T**HE second division are lucky to have Anfield and Litherland down with them. Here again the standard is not improving and the two relegated clubs look good enough to climb back at their first attempt.

**Certainly Anfield have given evidence that they don't intend to let anything stand in their way, as has been clearly shown by their summary 10-0 treatment of their own A team.**

# Ambitions of Oakhill A

Waterloo Dock and Linnets A, promoted to the division last season, look strong enough to maintain their position. Waterloo Dock are particularly strong at home.

Maybe part of the reason is the spiral staircase which leads to the underground clubroom. Has it been specially designed to make visitors dizzy? And if that doesn't succeed the clubroom has a smell of stale food to help turn the stomach. Add to that an excellent team of hitters who take full advantage of a very fast table to whip their opponents off before they can recover.

## Good nurseries

Probably Bootle Y.M.C.A. A will prove to be one of the strongest challengers, as they were for a considerable part of last season. The Y.M.C.A.'s generally attract sufficient players to provide a constant flow of talent and can often introduce up and coming youngsters who must eventually overtake the old brigades in teams like Bohemians, Rafter's, Panto and Victoria Park.

★ ★ ★

**D**IVISION Three is the start of the friendly societies, the main feature of whose matches are the social evening.

A lot of these teams do not fancy further promotion. They are in sufficiently high society to be proud of their achievements and not to worry about their weaknesses. They will play hard to win, of course, but promotion—no thanks. Ask the Police.

As I write Dunlop have dropped out after weeks of struggle by Secretary Sam Bennett to keep the team going under difficulties. It is a pity to see divisions depleted at

such a time when the possibility of filling vacancies is so near and yet so far away.

**Oakhill A are a team least likely to enjoy the third division. Not so long ago they graced the highest spheres, and they can now be expected to make a strong bid to move back in that direction.**

The University side, also newcomers to the division, look just the part and I expected them to stay in this happy company for some time to come.

★ ★ ★

**D**IVISION Four can claim some distinction this season. One team, Aigburth, did not know the season had started until their first opponents claimed a 10-0 victory for defaulting in the opening week.

## Freedom

In this division come the first of the released prisoners from Division 5—four B teams, all of whom will undoubtedly be challenging for honours. Having had some years in the fifth division wilderness myself, I feel confident that these B teams will quickly climb to within striking distance of their respective A teams.

Wavertree Community, fielding last season's team which was only just pipped for promotion, are likely to give the "Bees" their biggest opposition. It is interesting to note that that old stager Siddall is still holding his position at No. 1 for Wavertree.

**As I write a card arrives showing the Community having beaten Rafter's B 6-4. Rafter's lost two sets due to the late arrival of Caudwell. Tarr, the Wavertree captain, and Caird (Rafter's skipper) each scored a double.**

## ODDITY OF AFRICAN OIL

Linnets really started something with their circular letter advising that opponents not arriving on time will forfeit their games and expecting like medicine in return unless previous mutual agreement had been reached.

Possibly the above result was due to such action and means that more clubs will have the courage to act without being labelled bad sports.

★ ★ ★

**D**IVISION Five is another section with a new look about it, but here again the strength of those exiled B teams may well prove too much for the newcomers.

One very big improvement in the division is due to Fairlawn. They have a new table—not before time either. Their old one was one of the worst, if not the worst, in the league. It will be interesting to see if Fairlawn can maintain the degree of success at home they have enjoyed over the previous few seasons.

Fairlawn have one very good point in their favour. Their score cards are made out legibly, neat, accurate and fully filled in. If some team captains could hear the remarks passed about their cards, they would, I hope, be thoroughly ashamed as well as considerably shocked.

If yours is an A or B team, etc., put it on the card. Write your names legibly; if you cannot, then print them. Add your sets up and fill in your team records correctly and you will ease considerably the burden on the fixture secretary's wife. Why his wife? Because behind the scenes she is the fixture secretary. The figurehead has his name in the book, but the donkey work is done by Mrs. Fixture Secretary. And no offence meant by donkey work.

**T**HE Sixth division is the one which brings together the regional champions. Notice how those B and C teams dominate the scenery.

The general tendency is for more and stronger multi-team clubs. In the past a great deal of the multiple team clubs' strength has been due to the strength of reserves. Now that players are limited to 24 matches, it will be interesting to see if the C teams will be able to maintain their challenge.

**An interesting sidelight on one of this season's new rules is raised by Liverpool Y.M.C.A.**

As you know the rule allows players to represent one team only in a cup competition. Y.M.C.A. B are therefore being represented by their usual C team in their first cup game to keep the B team players in reserve for the club's senior sides.

★ ★ ★

**T**HE women's division could well be won by Balfour this season. They appear to be blessed with members and are likely to allow some of their better women to play in their women's team.

### Cup warning

Bohemians, on the other hand, will require the services of Mrs. Jones and Miss Willcox in the mixed divisions, but look out for a full strength Bohs in the Bartholomew Cup.

An oddity in this division is African Oil, now the sole surviving team of a club which was one of the League's leading lights and whose secretary is a man, Dan Power, who plays for Liverpool Y.M.C.A. African Oil men are trying their luck in the Business Houses League.

# Students' Great Potential

It is encouraging to see the women's second division still flourishing, despite the predictions of those who foresaw the new rules seriously curtailing their activities. There is little doubt that Orrell will be comfortable winners, unless, of course, they get over-confident. It is anybody's guess, however, who will accompany them at the top.

★ ★ ★

**T**HE regions are reduced to three this season. To some extent this will find favour with those teams in the regions. It always seems a long way to climb out at the rate of one promotion a year.

## Rule unchanged

It will not, of course, make any difference in the regions, where the same rule will apply, but not having so many regions makes it look easier, and invariably more promotions are actually made with teams dropping out of the divisions and there will now be fewer teams to compete for the vacancies.

**Many of our new clubs in the regions will one day be forming the backbone of the League. It does not seem very long since Bath Street and Litherland were new boys, and some people can remember Balfour as a regional club.**

Possibly Belling or Albright will follow suit and climb their way up. A lot will depend on the club secretary and the enthusiasm of the members.

**T**HE North Region is usually quite strong. Technical Students, re-appearing, are not the force they were and yet their potential is so great that it was surprising to see them open the season to such a poor start.

Co-op will be out to prove that this is their season, despite their defeat by R.A.F. Movement. They nearly made it last term, but the team who look likely to be putting in the strongest challenge for the championship is Waterloo Dock A, who had a more than useful session in the Central Region last season. They opened this term with three sound wins, which is more than any other team could achieve.

Warbreck A and Lofters A have also begun well and dropped only one point in their three opening games, the former to Co-op on their own table and Lofters away to Belling. After suffering a heavy defeat in their first match, Bath Street C have shown better things and it would not be surprising to see them one of the teams in the running next March.

★ ★ ★

**T**HE South Region has some very good sides. Stanley House, Florence Oxtan and Linnets C, from last season, are all likely to put up a great fight, but Beauclair A may well prove to be the team of the season.

# NURSERY FOR POLICE

## Another move

Beauclair have once again moved their headquarters and are now in the Bedford Social Clubrooms. They have swallowed up Bedford in the process and their A team, with a Bedford look about it, is a much tougher proposition than at any time last season.

Wavertree Labour are showing much improvement on last season's performance. Their drawn game with Beauclair A was a good indication that they must be treated with the fullest respect.

Hyde Cup holders Florence Oxton have already made it clear that they give nothing away and all their opponents can expect to have to fight hard when they meet the Mill Street boys.

★ ★ ★

**T**HE East Region contains most of last season's teams, which means that Police B should be seeking to improve on their placing. They appear to have quite a good nursery in the boys' association with their cadets, but duties play havoc with all police teams and it is therefore not unusual for freak defeats to pop up.

The present Police clubroom at Anfield is one of the League's best. Already inter-city matches and important cup games have been played there.

No doubt Alan Heague will be pleased to see these comments in print because on two or three previous occasions Police clubrooms have been under fire.

Crawfords, one of the new clubs, are actually renewing acquaintance with us. Just before the war they ran a very successful team, with Angus Blake, Hunt and one of the members of the Crawford family forming the backbone. I wonder if those names mean anything to the present side.

## New tormentors

Huntley and Palmer, ably skippered and secretaried by Gaskell, will be fighting hard this season and with last season's experience behind them, they are hoping to get off to their usual good start and to maintain it. They will not be tormented by Bohemians this season as they were last term.

It would appear, however, that there are others only too ready to step into Bohemians' shoes for in addition to the Police, West Derby Y.H.A. opened their season convincingly with three sound victories while Nalgo in their first matches disposed of two of the biscuit-making teams in somewhat like manner.

Indeed, after the first three weeks of the season four teams had still to taste defeat, which presaged a tough time ahead for any side having championship aspirations in the region.

# A Treasurer's Problems

By Don Cameron

It is always difficult to take over a job from someone else who has been so popular and who has been so successful. However, I will do my best with just one aspect of our late secretary-treasurer's positions and endeavour to administer the funds of the League.

I don't want to make excuses before I start but the financial position of the League has been deteriorating over the last few years.

Admittedly we still have a very healthy bank balance but this was built up in the post-war years when table tennis was booming and England produced a world champion who filled the Philharmonic Hall for the Merseyside Open finals.

This year we must budget for a loss on the Open, partly because of the increased costs but mainly because we just could not get the spectators at the finals as we used to. However, we do not mind that providing that the Open can prove itself a success from a playing point of view.

Our income over the past ten years has remained very steady but expenditure continues to rise every year. We did increase the club fee for this season but only 6d. of it

comes to the League—the rest goes to the E.T.T.A.

The player's registration fee of 2s. 6d. (excluding the Digest fee) has remained unaltered for many years. The only revenue item to be increased is the fine for non-attendance at the general meetings and I think that our income from that source will diminish—nobody wants to pay a fine of £1! At our first general meeting this season only one club failed to attend and that was because of illness.

This season will be particularly expensive. Much of the expense has been incurred in keeping the League going and splitting the jobs up. Postages have increased—it costs 4½d. to post a handbook now instead of 2½d.—printing has again gone up, although I managed to get several more advertisements in the handbook, and this season an additional telephone bill will be paid. In addition, we have had to buy a certain amount of equipment for the Open.

To compensate for these increases we are hoping to make some money on the draw. This was one of the last of Mr. Stamp's ideas and we hope that it will be successful so that we can at least finish the season with a slight excess of income over expenditure.

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## Around the Clubrooms

VISITORS to the Bohemians this season will notice, despite the darkness of their surroundings, that the Stoneycroft club are having an extension built to their premises. All the building has been done by members and their friends who have been putting in a great deal of their leisure time on the work. When it is completed the extension is to be made into a bar.

★ ★ ★

Congratulations to Jean Benson (Rafters) and Harry Reynolds (Linnets) on their marriage at the beginning of last month. Theirs has been a real table tennis romance for they first met five or six years ago as members of Linnets when the club had their former headquarters.

Another couple who were married during the close season were Ted Morris and Joan Mitchell, both of Linnets.

One wag has suggested that Linnets should change their name to the "Linnets Matrimonial Agency".

★ ★ ★

We all know that occasionally our table tennis matches clash awkwardly with other events, but the limit was reached recently when the member of one team rang up the secretary of the team they were due to play on the night of the Liverton floodlight game at Goodison Park and suggested postponing the match. The secretary refused, the player suggested that he and his colleagues arrive about 9.30, and was greatly surprised when that was also rejected.

The player and his team-mates turned up for the match but quickly made it very obvious that they took a dim view of having to do so.

## CUT OUT THE MEDALS

Mr. Jim Green, secretary of Linnets, sends us the following suggestion in a letter:

The rule changes at the last A.G.M. have effectively placed the accent on ethics in respect of the placings of players. Strict legality now takes second place to morality, and I cannot help thinking that the change is for the better, especially if the Management Committee do (as promised) refuse admission to the League in subsequent years to those clubs who persist in fiddling for their own advancement.

As we all know, there are players to whom the game means less than their own collection of medals, and this medal-hunting is one of the main contributory causes of players appearing in teams lower than is consistent with their merit.

I am firmly convinced that medals should be given *ONLY* to the League champions, i.e. members of the teams winning the First division and Women's First division.

For the winners of other divisions, instead of medals, present a plaque to the club. And give medals to Readman and Bartholomew Cup winners, and plaques to the clubs for all others.

That would mean the pot-hunters would want to play in their first teams, and they would not agree to play in lower teams, for there would be no cheap medals to be picked up. Cut out the incentive and you'll do away with fiddling.

And, while on the topic, why not plaques instead of prizes for Close Championship winners. Prizes may be all very well, but I feel certain that these people would prefer a permanent memento of their victory than a prize which they could always buy if they wanted to.