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**TABLE
TENNIS
DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

WARNING TO ALL CLUBS

by John McKim

TWO matters discussed recently by the Management Committee require, I think, a little more detailed explanation than the other items mentioned elsewhere under Management Notes.

The first matter concerned three clubs in the East Region, Police B, Albright and Telecomms. Two of these clubs were found to have played a match in which one of their players did not turn up, and the score card was filled in with this player's name and false scores, whilst Telecomms, the opponents in each case, had signed the score card as correct.

The committee in discussing this matter, took into account the fact that in each instance a club new to the League was involved, and no gain from the playing sense was or could have been gained. Their decision was that each of the three clubs should receive a severe warning, and that the warning letter should be placed on the club notice board so that all members of the club would be made aware of the position and warned that any further offences will be followed by much more drastic action from the committee.

I trust that this will be a warning to some other clubs, that this kind of offence does not always escape attention. This *Digest* goes to every registered member. No club captain or secretary can say he was not warned.

The second item of interest was the League's first complaint under the new standardisation of the bat experimental rule. It was lodged with the committee by Everton Y.M. regarding the bat used by the member of the Maghull club. It was that the bat had two layers of pimped rubber on each side of the blade.

This was admitted by Maghull who argued that the total thickness was in order and the word "single"

was not mentioned in the rule but only in the definition, which for some reason they chose to ignore.

I am mentioning this particular matter in detail, because the Maghull secretary told me, in justification of their case, that he had discussed the matter with other players, including the secretary of one of our largest clubs, and these people had agreed with him. The committee's decision was that the game should be replayed without the offending bat, and the player in question was informed that the bat must not be used again.

Those of you who were at the Merseyside Open may have noticed the absence of our President, Mr. C. E. Bartholemew, who was unfortunately taken ill a week or two before the tournament. Mr. Bartholemew was most disappointed that he could not attend the finals, but his illness did not affect in any way his interest in the arrangement for the tournament, and he required a fully detailed account of the proceedings. I am sure you will all join me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Once again, with the co-operation of the Bootle Y.M.C.A. and the faithful few who always are willing to help on such occasions, we staged a round of the Eagle and Girl tournament on Saturday, December 7th. Total entry was 133, which was one-fifteenth of the total entry throughout the country. It would appear that there is some interest in table tennis in the city; perhaps some day it will reach the members of the Liverpool League. Believe it or not there was a constant queue of players at the referee's table asking to umpire the games.

One of our vice-presidents, Dr. J. Rumjahn, has been seriously ill. We hope that his recent improvement will continue, and send him the best wishes of all league members.

Teams' Good Start

By J. McCaig

THE programme in the Lancashire and Cheshire League is now well under way, and the results to date are as follows:—

J.M. Rose Bowl: Ladies v Stockport (A), lost 4-5.

Liverpool 'A' v Wirral 'A' (A), won 10-0.

Liverpool v Chester (H), won 7-3.

Liverpool 'A' v St. Helens (A), won 8-2.

Liverpool 'A' v Wirral (H), won 6-4.

Wilmott Cup: Liverpool v Ellesmere Port (H), won 8-1.

Liverpool v Wirral 'A' (H), won 10-0.

Liverpool v Wirral (A), won 8-2.

Ladies v Manchester (H), lost 2-8.

You will notice that both men's teams have now played three matches, winning them all, with their respective sets average almost identical.

So far, the first team has been represented by Ron Rumjahn, Arthur Taylor, Bill Pierce and Norman Jones, whilst Les Mulholland, Bill Harris and Wally Allanson have played in all the 'A' team matches. Without doubt the most interesting and exciting match to date was the Liverpool 'A' v Wirral encounter played at Victoria Park. There was plenty of good table tennis, and both sides showed a keenness which was rather unusual. Being a local "Derby" this was quite understandable and it resulted in a very close struggle.

Wirral were ahead for most of the match, but at 4-3 in their favour the tide turned, and our lads won the last three events. All the team played their part well, although Bill Harris, who had not thus far had a happy evening, particularly distinguished himself by defeating Ron Grayson when the match stood at 4-all.

Peter Rumjahn incidentally used his position as non-playing captain rather astutely by bringing in Norman Jones to partner Bill Harris in the doubles, and this they won 22-20 in the third, at a very critical time in the match.

The game against Wirral has been the only one to really extend our 'A' team so far, and they stand in a happy position as do our first team who, whilst not being involved in many tense battles, have done all that has been expected of them. Norman Jones has been brought into the side on three occasions, as reserve, and has played with great determination to win all his nine sets to date.

The Wilmott Cup tie with Ellesmere Port was possibly the most interesting first team match despite the apparent ease which an 8-1 victory suggests. Arthur Taylor played the first event, and made a fine recovery from 17-20 in the second game, having lost the first, to win 22-20, and clinch the set in the third game, whilst Bill Pierce lost his first set, so that the score could easily have been 0-2 instead of 1-1 at this stage.

Liverpool emerged victors in the end, but there were a few anxious moments.

The last match to be played before Christmas will be between Liverpool and Liverpool 'A' at the Beauclair club on Friday, December 20th. The teams will be:—
Liverpool: R. M. Rumjahn, A. C. Taylor, N. R. Jones; Liverpool 'A': L. Mulholland, W. Harris, W. Allanson.

This ought to be a "battle royal", and could virtually decide the championship of Division 2 South. I do not propose to forecast the result, but if you wish to see a ding-dong struggle, my advice is to visit Beauclair on December 20th.

MEMORIAL TO MR. STAMP

by J. H. C. Hughes

AT the first meeting of the new Management Committee members were asked to consider how best to commemorate the work of our late Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Mr. Stamp, and to be ready with their suggestions at a meeting to be held at a later date.

The new officers having settled in their appointments and the Merseyside Open successfully completed, the Management Committee have now been able to give this matter their full attention.

A special meeting of the Committee was held on November 15 to consider the various suggestions and finalise plans so that a definite scheme could be put before members in this issue.

After much discussion, thought and the seeking of suggestions from many quarters it was the unanimous decision of the Management Committee that the perpetuating of Bill Stamp's name should take two forms — (1) within the League and table tennis, and (2) outside the League and where he also had many connections and interests.

As regards the former it was decided to institute The Stamp Award of Merit. This would be a plaque awarded by the Management Committee for outstanding service by either a player, an official or a club to the League. It would be

the winner's own property and a list of winners would be inserted in the handbook.

This would not necessarily be an annual award but would only be given when merited. On the other hand there may be a year when more than one award was made.

Regarding the second part of the scheme, it has been decided to open a Stamp Memorial Fund to which every member may have the opportunity to donate, either direct or through his club.

Mr. Stamp had many ties and great affection for the Sefton General Hospital and the Management Committee have decided that the proceeds of the above fund should go to the providing of a teak seat, suitably inscribed, in the grounds of the hospital, together with other amenities as circumstances warrant. Contact has been made with the hospital and they have signified their appreciation of the gift and the worthy sentiment that prompts it.

Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. S. D. Cameron, 29 Dudlow Lane, Liverpool 18 and made payable to the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League.

The Management Committee look forward to a generous response to this appeal so that the work and service of Mr. Stamp may be suitably recognised and perpetuated.

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BRILLIANCE OF ANN HAYDON

By Jack Pattison

THIS year's Merseyside Open will go down on record as a memorable one for several reasons—the perfection of the setting, the brilliance of Ann Haydon, the repetition of history, and the forward performance of a Liverpool player little known outside Merseyside.

Let us take them in chronological order.

The Management Committee must have congratulated themselves on finding so perfect a venue as the canteen of the Dunlop Rubber Company's works at Speke. The twelve tables spaced out down the long room, with their overhead lights, made a brave sight. But what, I believed, crowned everything were the canteen facilities which enabled anyone wishing it to have a hot lunch on the Saturday.

I have attended many Merseysides but I cannot remember one which ran more smoothly, as though on well-oiled wheels—which, indeed, they were. In fact, so successful was the event that it was unfortunate it was attended by two disappointing features—the smallness of the entry of our own players and of the number who paid for admission. I feel that many of those who did not compete can take the example of Trevor Ellis, of the University, as what can be possible.

Having said that we can turn to the actual play.

It must have been the first time in history that the finals of any Merseyside Open were dominated by the women's singles—I certainly cannot remember any previous one.

Ann Haydon and Pam Mortimer produced a match which must have surprised everyone. It just about had everything one could wish for—attack and counter attack, brilliant defence and judicious tactics.

Both girls showed fine fighting ability and courage and the result was a game which did the reputation of table tennis a great deal of good. Indeed, if we had more of such games table tennis would be a much bigger draw than it is now and we would see much bigger attendances at our events.

Miss Haydon gave clear proof of why she is rated England's No. 1. Until the final she had not conceded more than 11 points in any game and in the first game of the final it looked as though she would maintain that record, so much did she dominate the game. She failed by one point, thanks to Miss Mortimer's fighting ability, but her complete command seemed to give her a false sense of security for with the opening of the second game she appeared to relax her concentration a little. That was enough for Miss Mortimer, who quickly assumed the ascendancy with a brilliant attacking game and before she knew where she was Miss Haydon was trailing 11-18.

It was then that we saw her courage. Fiercely she contested every point to get to 18-19 but she had allowed her opponent too much leeway to be able to catch her and Miss Mortimer took the game to 19.

With each having tasted success, the final game was a brilliant affair. Neither gave away the slightest chance and every point had to be earned. That Miss Haydon won was due to her greater ability to match attack with defence, to switch from defence to attack, to pick her opportunities to ace her opponent and to use every inch of the table. It was without doubt one of the finest displays by a woman player seen on Merseyside.

20 Years On

By comparison the men's singles was a tame affair, yet it was full of good tactical play such as table tennis players themselves can appreciate if it is not thrilling for the outside public.

It is about 20 years ago that two Hungarians—Barna and Bellak—contested the men's singles final in the Merseyside. Now we had two other Hungarians doing the same thing and G. Muranyi beat his countryman, Josef Somogyi, more by the fact that the latter is not yet completely at home with dimpled rubber since changing from sponge, than by any other factor.

ALMOST A SENSATION

Frequently Somogyi was guilty of over-hitting as though finding it difficult to control the ball as well as to time it. And what had been in previous rounds his most devastating shot—a whipping backhand flick—proved to be his undoing. Indeed, it lost him the set for at 19-all in the third he hit two in succession to see them go two or three inches beyond the table with Muranyi completely out of position.

The two Hungarians carried off the men's doubles from the Cheshire pair Schofield and Johnson after it looked as though the match would go the other way. That it did not was, to my view, due to Johnson suddenly losing his touch and finding few of his shots go right.

Somogyi and Miss Haydon won the mixed doubles chiefly because of the latter. She was easily the outstanding player of the quartet.

Perhaps the biggest disappointment of the tournament was the form of Brian Kennedy. He was so much below par as to be unrecognisable as England's leading rated player; yet he confessed afterwards that he was playing better than he had been a month earlier. He has found the change-over from sponge a terrific handicap and reckons that he will not regain his form until well into the New Year, and only then with much intensive tournament play.

But that fact in no way detracts from the great display which Ron Grayson gave when he met Kennedy in the fourth round and completely shook him by taking the first game to 11. Unfortunately for Merseyside's prestige he could not keep it up. It is the second time Kennedy has had a fright from, to him, an unknown local player. Three years ago in Mather Avenue drill hall Reg Hetherington did the same thing.

All things considered, however, I think the local honours of the tournament went to Ellis of the University, especially when one remembers that pretty well all his play on Merseyside has been confined to the lower divisions of the league.

Ellis was one of the four Liverpool players to reach the fourth round on the Saturday, the

others being Grayson (already mentioned), Arthur Taylor and Les Mulholland, and he had to fight every inch of the way. Look for instance at the three victories he scored to qualify for playing on Saturday—Roy Jones by 15 and 16; Mandaluff 16-18, 8; and E. Davies, who plays No. 1 for Widnes, 18 and 17.

Nor was his task on the Saturday any easier, for his first opponent was the North of England junior champion, J. Keogh. Yet it was in defeat that Ellis stood out most prominently for he came within a point of defeating Somogyi after having been overwhelmed in their first game. After taking the second game 22-20, Ellis held set point on his opponent and only narrowly missed creating the sensation of the tournament by losing the third 26-24.

Taylor and Mulholland had much easier affairs on the Saturday until meeting defeat, Mulholland at the hands of Muranyi. Both of them had however played well to keep local prestige high and to prove that Liverpool can still produce more than useful players.

Reg Royle was the most successful of the local women players, reaching the quarter finals before losing to Kathie Best, but both she and Julie Roberts had done enough previously to please themselves and their friends.

Here are the results of the finals:

Men's singles

G. Muranyi beat J. Somogyi 21-18, 16-21, 21-19.

Women's Singles

Miss A. Haydon beat Miss P. Mortimer 21-12, 19-21, 21-15.

Junior Singles

G. Lynch beat J. Keogh 21-14, 21-13.

Men's Doubles

Muranyi and Somogyi beat D. Schofield and E. Johnson 17-21, 21-15, 21-13.

Women's Doubles

Miss Haydon and Miss Mortimer beat Miss S. Newton and Miss M. Young 21-13, 21-7.

Mixed Doubles

Somogyi and Miss Haydon beat B. Kennedy and Miss K. Best 21-19, 17-21, 23-21.

LEAGUE TABLES

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour	9	8	0	1	70	20	17
Linnets	8	8	0	0	56	24	16
Rafters	8	7	1	0	58	22	14
Liverpool Y.M.	9	6	3	0	51	39	12
Bootle Y.M.	9	5	4	0	49	41	10
Bohemians	9	4	4	1	45	45	9
Victoria Park	9	3	5	1	43	47	7
Bath Street	9	1	5	3	37	53	5
Oakhill	9	2	6	1	34	56	5
L'pool Y.M. A	9	1	6	2	29	61	4
Cadwa	9	2	7	0	27	63	4
Balfour A	9	1	7	1	31	59	3

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Anfield	9	8	0	1	67	23	17
Litherland	9	7	1	1	66	24	15
Waterloo Dock	9	6	1	2	58	32	14
Lucem	9	6	3	0	42	48	12
Bootle Y.M. A	9	4	3	2	41	49	10
I.C.I.	9	3	4	2	39	51	8
Panto	8	2	3	3	38	42	7
Rafters A	9	3	5	1	40	50	7
Bohemians A	9	2	5	2	40	50	6
Linnets A	8	2	6	0	34	46	4
Anfield A	9	1	7	1	34	56	3
Victoria Pk. A	9	0	6	3	31	59	3

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Waterloo Park	7	7	0	0	50	20	14
Oakhill A	8	5	2	1	49	31	11
Linacre	8	4	1	3	42	38	11
English Elec.	8	3	2	3	42	38	9
University	8	4	3	1	41	39	9
Litherland A	8	3	2	3	35	45	9
Lofters	8	3	3	2	42	38	8
Maghull	8	2	5	1	40	40	5
Everton Y.M.	9	1	5	3	36	54	5
L.P.A.S.	8	1	6	1	32	48	3
Cadwa A	6	1	5	0	21	39	2

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Beauclair	9	7	2	0	58	32	14
Wavertree C.C.	9	6	2	1	58	32	13
Bootle Y.M. B	9	6	1	2	51	39	13
Warbreck	9	5	1	3	49	41	12
Rafters B	9	4	2	3	52	38	11
Bath Street A	9	5	3	1	49	41	11
L'pool Y.M. B	9	4	3	2	52	38	10
R.A.F.A.	9	4	3	2	51	39	10
Bohemians B	9	3	3	3	45	45	9
L.P.A.S. A	10	2	8	0	37	63	4
Aigburth	9	1	7	1	31	59	3
Panto A	10	0	10	0	17	83	0

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Victoria Pk. B	9	8	1	0	61	29	16
Balfour B	9	6	1	2	66	24	14
Fairlawn	9	7	2	0	64	26	14
Harold House	8	4	1	3	47	33	11
Wavertree A	9	5	3	1	50	40	11
Waterloo Pk A	9	3	3	3	50	40	9
Litherland B	9	4	4	1	46	44	9
Victoria Pk. C	9	3	6	0	33	57	6
Cadwa B	9	2	6	1	30	60	5
Anfield B	9	2	5	2	26	64	5
Oakhill B	8	1	5	2	22	58	4
Rafters C	9	1	8	0	35	55	2

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Linnets B	7	6	1	0	51	19	12
Sefton	6	5	0	1	44	16	11
Balfour C	7	4	1	2	43	27	10
L'pool Y.M. C	6	5	1	0	39	21	10
Bath Street B	7	2	2	3	32	38	7
Anfield C	8	2	3	3	36	44	7
Bohemians C	7	1	2	4	30	40	5
Bootle Y.M. C	7	2	5	0	28	42	4
Domestic Miss.	7	0	5	2	22	48	2
Litherland C	8	0	6	2	25	55	2

North Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Lofters A	9	8	0	1	65	25	17
Waterloo Dk A	9	8	0	1	64	26	17
Bootle Nalgo	9	7	2	0	64	26	14
Co-op.	9	5	3	1	48	42	11
Warbreck A	8	4	2	2	45	35	10
Bath Street C	9	4	5	0	43	47	8
Belling & Lee	8	3	4	1	42	38	7
English Elec A	9	2	5	2	42	48	6
R.A.F. Movs.	9	2	5	2	34	56	6
Waterloo Pk B	9	3	6	0	34	56	6
Maghull A	9	2	7	0	34	56	4
Tech. Students	9	0	9	0	15	75	0

South Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Florence Oxtou	8	7	0	1	64	16	15
Linnets C	8	6	1	1	50	30	13
Old Xavs.	8	5	2	1	51	29	11
Wavertree Lab.	8	5	2	1	44	36	11
Beauclair A	9	3	3	3	50	40	9
Lussac	8	4	3	1	44	36	9
Stanley House	8	4	3	1	44	36	9
Victoria Pk D	8	2	4	2	37	43	6
Aigburth A	8	2	5	1	30	50	5
Beauclair B	8	1	7	0	25	55	2
Linnets D	9	0	9	0	11	79	0

LEAGUE TABLES

	East Region				
	P	W	L	D	F A P
West Derby	9	8	1	0	72 18 16
Huntley & P.	9	8	1	0	71 19 16
Nalgo	8	7	1	0	62 18 14
L.P.A.S. B	9	7	2	0	59 31 14
Crawfords	9	5	3	1	50 50 11
Telecomms	9	5	4	0	48 42 10
Fairlawn A	9	4	5	0	38 52 8
Nalga A	8	2	5	1	35 45 5
Stoneycroft	8	2	5	1	25 55 5
Huntley & P A	9	1	8	1	20 70 2
Albrrt & Wilson	9	0	8	1	21 69 1
Oakhill C	6	0	6	0	9 61 0

Women's Division 1

	P W L D F A P				
	P	W	L	D	F A P
Balfour	9	8	0	1	73 17 17
Cadwa	8	6	0	2	58 22 14
Rafters	8	6	2	0	55 25 12
Bohemians	9	5	3	1	53 37 11
Bibbys	9	5	4	0	53 37 10
Linnets	9	4	3	2	47 43 10
Bath Street	9	4	4	1	44 46 9
Oakhill	7	3	3	1	35 45 7
African Oil	9	2	6	1	30 60 5
Cadwa A	9	1	7	1	24 66 3
Domestic Miss.	9	1	7	1	21 69 3
Waterloo Park	8	0	6	2	22 58 2

Women's Division 2

	P W L D F A P				
	P	W	L	D	F A P
Orrell	6	6	0	0	56 4 12
Dunlop	7	6	1	0	51 19 12
Bohemians A	6	5	1	0	40 20 10
Rafters A	7	4	2	1	36 34 9
Linnets A	8	3	4	1	39 41 7
Sefton	8	2	4	2	36 44 6
Bibbys A	8	3	5	0	34 46 6
Huntley & P	6	1	4	1	22 38 3
Anfield	6	1	5	0	14 46 2
Anfield A	7	0	6	1	12 58 1

CHECK YOUR RECORD and advise the Fixture Secretary of any discrepancy.

A GREAT SUCCESS

The league draw took place at the Balfour Institute on Friday, December 6th. Mr. E. Bown, President of the Cheshire Table Tennis League, drew the winning ticket, number 4569 from the drum, and Miss Nan Lamb, of the Lofters Club must now be feeling very happy at the prospect of receiving her prize. As I write, Miss Lamb has not decided which of the three articles to choose, writes Jack McCaig.

I have not yet had time to work out the net financial result of the draw, particularly as the cost of the prize is not quite certain, but I can tell you that the gross receipts amount to almost £160.

It is obvious therefore, that the league will have made a substantial profit. For this success, I would like to express my own personal thanks, and also those of the Management Committee who launched this venture, for the wonderful support which has been given by the great majority of clubs in the league. Without the work which club secretaries and members have done, the draw could not have succeeded.

I must admit that at the outset, I was a little apprehensive about the scheme, but the members of the league have certainly shown that there remains a good spirit, and a desire to keep the league on a sound financial footing.

Once again, many thanks to you all, and well done.

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HONOURS BATTLE OPEN

by Eddie Cameron

MAY I start this month by saving money for some of you. The printed paper rate did not go up with the recent postal increases. Score cards therefore still need only a 2d. stamp.

That effort should perhaps make these notes a little more popular. Judging from comments received, last month's were not so popular. It would appear that everyone would like to hear nice things about themselves; otherwise no comment is permissible. But a little criticism does no harm and you are all welcome to air your views and, incidentally, to tell me "where to get off".

Waterloo Dock gave me a ticking off for daring to suggest that a canteen smell pervades their club-room, and to point out that it has been used for city matches. cup ties, etc. Quite right; it is one of the most spacious and best clubrooms in the league, and I will be asking for its use to stage cup semi-finals or finals later in the season.

★ ★ ★

THE first division is promising to be the most open for years. Linnets, at the top as I write, are not convincing; Balfour, on the other hand, are improving after dropping their surprise point, while Rafters are keeping with them but do not look like champions to me.

Bohemians and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. are likely to be in the top half of the table without worries, but for all the rest it will be a mad scramble for points. The team which may finish bottom is Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A. They have the weakest Nos. 1 and 2 in the division. Playing No. 1, however, sharpens one's game considerably and a tactical move of the Y.M. in playing D'Arcy at No. 4 against Balfour A, helped considerably in their 7-3 win, thus doubling their points total.

Balfour A are without the regular service of Bill McKechnie and this throws a lot of weight on to Ken Gaulton and Mal Wallace. Un-

fortunately for Balfour, their reserve strength is not as good as it used to be, and Eileen Mansell, Gerry Gill and J. Randall may not be able to make the tail wag enough.

He would be a bold person who would prophesy the relegation pair, however, because as weak as these two teams are Cadwa, Oakhill, Bath Street and Victoria Park, all have serious weaknesses to overcome before they can be happy about their positions.

★ ★ ★

ANFIELD are well away in Division 2 and look unassailable. E. Barnes has gone into hospital, but along comes M. Oakes to fill the gap. Well led by Alan Lawson, the team is solid down to No. 5, with Joe Brierley defending as doggedly as ever; H. Johnston steady and reliable and Cliff Fay, 5-foot nothing of energy, hitting as hard as ever.

Litherland have also been reinforced by Tom Killip, ex-Dunlop and Anfield. Birmingham, Chew, Clayton and E. Anderson, ably assisted by Cooke, look strong enough to stay with Anfield and return to Division 1 at the first attempt.

While the Anfield seniors are high and dry at the top, their A team at the other extreme are holding up the division and on their present form are likely to stay there. Victoria Park A and Linnets A are little better, but perhaps the biggest surprise is the lowly position of Rafters A. Last season they were challenging for promotion. True, Casselman has gone to help the seniors, but the team appears to have gone to pieces without him.

Old-timers I.C.I. are coasting along nicely, with veterans Bert Fairhurst and Bill Baldwin still teaching some of the youngsters a thing or two. Derek Jones, the wooden bat merchant, still plonks his way through although business calls restrict his appearances, and Davies' wholeheartedness and savage expressions bode ill for anyone daring to fight back too hard.

Curious Moves at Waterloo

IN the third division the Police have pulled themselves clear of the bottom rung, handing the position over to Cadwa A. The latter's team is Brown, W. P. Crafter, Jones, Johnson and Lythgoe and is not strong enough in experience, but having lost three of their matches 4-6, they are hoping for the odd sets swing in their favour.

Everton Y.M. and Maghull, who have now lost Frank Rawlinson, are not in a very healthy position but both have an easier programme to the halfway stage which should keep them clear of danger.

Widening the gap at the top, Waterloo Park, as I write, boast a 100 per cent record and are full of confidence. Readitt, at No. 1 is well backed up by Henwood, Hayden, Spencer and Reid, and the team generally is about the most improved combination in the division.

University have suffered a considerable set-back by the loss of their star No. 1, Trevor Ellis, who has transferred to Victoria Park. Those who saw the Merseyside will realise just what a loss this is. Despite that, however, University are still likely to hold their own.

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STRANGEST thing about Division 5 are the team trials of Bath Street A. Such well known figures as Aspinall, Delamere, Gould, Cyril Smith and A. C. Taylor, have all been asked to prove their first team status by turning out for the A team. Despite this, however, Bath Street are still trailing behind the leaders, Beauclair, who have so far suffered only one reverse.

The divisional leadership however is still wide open, with Wavertree, Bootle Y.M.C.A. B and Warbreck all in with a chance. What a nice and interesting struggle lies ahead of them.

At the bottom Panto A are still seeking their first point and with only 17 sets in their favour from nine games, they appear likely to be still seeking it when the season ends. Aigburth and Police A appear to have the next-to-bottom position all to themselves, with the Police having a slight advantage at the moment.

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BY the time the league tables go into print Division 5's most important match will have been played and the leadership between Victoria Park B and Fairlawn probably decided. Sanders, at No. 1 for Fairlawn, is playing as well as ever, and Leeson, Carter, Partington and Phillips appear to be improving on last season, but Fairlawn have not always been consistent and have in the past had a tendency to fall away in the second half of the season.

Balfour B are still very much in the race and they too, have also still to play Park B.

Harold House are doubtless hoping that the clashes between the top three will give them the opportunity to pull up some of the leeway and perhaps steal a march on them. In Barry Jacobs, at No. 1, Harold House have one of the most promising up and coming players in the league. Maybe studies will retard his development to some extent, but watch for further progress by Harold House who are capable of beating the best in the division.

Rafters C, at the bottom, are yet another team seeking their first point, despite the efforts of city representatives, sisters Bluey and Pinky.

FLO. OXTON HOPES

FLORENCE OXTON, Hyde Cup holders, have decided to make this their last season in the South Region. They are unbeaten to date with but eleven sets against them in seven matches. Of course, they intend taking the Hyde Cup with them also, and there are no greater enthusiasts than the seven registered members of the club.

Eddie Moran is doing well at No. 1. In fact, with a record such as theirs, all must necessarily be doing well. Mansfield, McCarten, Reeves and Cook are the current team choice, with Cawley and Ward-on reserve.

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LUCEM A have resigned from Division 6 and as this has occurred in the first half of the season, their record is expunged. Don't forget, therefore, to remove the result from your totals if your club has played them.

Linnets B will doubtless be delighted to do this because it represents one of their two defeats. On the other hand Sefton enjoyed a handsome win over Lucem A and their record suffers accordingly. Fortunes of war, my friends.

Sefton, however, still have the edge on Linnets and this looks like last season's South Region battle all over again. The hospital team are strengthened this season by Ken McKechnie, from Balfour, and with Davies, ex-Bedford, as a regular, Budge, Kettle and Douglas look strong enough to win their way to Division 5 at the first attempt.

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WATERLOO DOCK A and Lofters A are another top pair who, strangely enough, do not meet until the final match of the first half of the season. Lofters dropped a point in their first match, Waterloo Dock are still 100 per cent, and the two are awaiting the decider, each to prove their right to the North Regional championship.

Belling & Lee have made a promising start for a new club. But a new club does not necessarily mean newcomers to the league. Cantrell and his men have quite a bit of league experience; Harper, Sandys, Davies and Patterson are the others who are keeping Belling in the top half of the table.

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WEST DERBY head the East Region, with Huntley & Palmer and Police B running them close. I understand the skipper of Huntley & Palmer is Campbell—we incorrectly bestowed the honour on Secretary Gaskell in our last issue, much to the Disgust of Gaskell.

Crawfords and Telecomms are new clubs who again are having a successful season. Albright & Wilson are not so well off for points but are keeping away from the bottom rung.

Oakhill C must be almost sorry they entered. They have not scored better than 2-8 in any match so far, but they are enjoying their game which is the main thing.

Cup Draws

Readman Cup — Round 3

Bath Street v Balfour A/Linnets
Bohemians v Litherland A
Waterloo Dock v Victoria Park
Liverpool Y.M.C.A. v Rafters

Rumjahn Cup — Round 3

Beauclair v Balfour B
Waterloo Park v Victoria Park B
Wavertree v Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B/
University
Bootle Y.M.C.A. C v Rafters B

Hyde Cup — Round 3

Co-op. v R.A.F. Movements
Victoria Park D v Warbreck A
Florence Oxtton v Linnets C
Huntley & Palmer v Nalgo A/
Lofters

The above are to be played during the week commencing January 6th, 1958.

Bartholomew Cup — Semi-Finals

Balfour v Bohemians
Cadwa/Bath Street v Orrell

The Mancunian Bogy

By Eileen Mansell

THE season is getting near to the halfway mark and at the moment of writing Balfour lead the women's first division with 15 points, followed by Cadwa a point behind and Bohemians with 12 points.

This term Bohemians are without Moya Jones and Muriel Willcox who have decided to play in the mixed division, so weakening their women's team considerably. Nevertheless, the team are capable of holding their own and anything can happen before the end of the season.

Balfour have almost the same team as last season, except that Muriel Atkinson is taking the place of Joyce Randall, who has also decided to play in the mixed divisions. Muriel is a much improved player this season and when once she gets over her nervousness should be a great asset to the team.

Cadwa are also much improved this season and they also have Ivy Crafter now playing regularly, so they will be a difficult team to beat.

Orrell remain top of the second division. They have a very strong team indeed and next season will probably find them challenging the rest in the first division. Dunlops are second and Bohemians A have moved up to third place.

What we have

The Bartholomew Cup matches saw Bohemians beat Bibbys 10-nil. For the match Bohemians considerably strengthened their team by including Moya and Muriel. It looks as though Bohemians are going all out to retain the cup, but they will be strongly challenged by Balfour and Orrell, both of whom won their matches.

The inter-city match with Manchester women resulted in an 8-2 victory for Manchester. The Mancunians have for long seemed to have the edge on Liverpool teams. It is quite some time since our women's team seriously challenged them. Beryl Waterson unfortunately could not play at the last moment, so Pinky Rumjahn stepped in to

play in the singles as well as the doubles with Bluey. It was left to Pinky to gain our only singles win.

In the first five events our team played well below form and it was not until the doubles match, which the twins won in three games, that they seemed to settle down. It seemed to put new heart into them.

Moya played Lorna Bown, the Cheshire county player, and lost in straight sets 18-21, 18-21. She played well and with a little more luck might have won. Pinky met Jean Chadderton and really settling down played like a champion to win 21-19, 21-12.

Moya then played Connie Moore, who had just been chosen for Lancashire. I am sure she must still be annoyed with herself as this was a match she should never have lost. In the first game she led 18-9 and lost it 21-23, and in the second was leading 20-17 and lost 22-24. She must have been very disappointed as she was really playing well and had the Manchester player very worried.

Blow the League

It will be quite a blow to the Liverpool team and to the Lofters club when Beryl Waterson moves to London early in the New Year. Beryl has always been a valuable member of the Liverpool team for the past four or five seasons and has always played extremely well and never shown her disappointment when beaten.

She has made big progress in the last couple of seasons and now has a good all round game. She used to be a purely defensive player but has now developed a good attacking game so that she is a difficult player to beat. I am sure everyone in the league will join me in wishing her and Peter, her husband, every success in their new home in London.

Best wishes for a happy Christmas and may the New Year find every-one keener than ever.

Editor: May I on behalf of the Editorial Board and the League officials extend the same wish to all our members.

BE PATIENT, LADIES

by Joe Ellison

AFTER seeing Bath Street women play against Oakhill women at the latter's clubroom, may I tender them a little advice offered to both teams. It is this—aim first at keeping the ball going; don't try to hit every shot through the walls; while you have the making of a good team, you simply will not get anywhere unless you wait for the right ball to hit.

Time and again throughout the match the Bath Street players seemed to think that every service was to be immediately slammed back for a winner and this was quite a factor in Oakhill's eventual victory of 7-3.

This attitude to the game was particularly noticeable in the first set of the evening between Miss Fulton (Oakhill) and Miss Parks (Bath Street). Both showed little attempt to wait for the right opening with the result that the game was quickly over, the Bath Street player taking it in straight games.

Lil Robinson and Barbara Hardacre showed some improvement in a three-game set, all closely contested, in which Miss Robinson's greater experience and better defence forced her opponent into costly errors.

Experience told

Mrs. Edna Moore had little difficulty in putting Oakhill in front, beating Miss Ellan 21-12, 21-18. Here again greater experience was evident and Oakhill went further into the lead when Mrs. Allen virtually strolled through to beat Mrs. Paul 21-12 21-15. The Bath Street player did not seem to show any fight at all and the set was over in less than ten minutes.

The table tennis so far had not been good and there was no sign from any of the younger players ever being likely candidates for the Liverpool team.

Experience again triumphed when Mrs. Moore beat Miss Hardacre in two straight. The Oakhill's player's defence was just a bit too good for Miss Hardacre's hard but woefully erratic hitting.

The doubles between Mrs. Moore and Miss Fulton and Miss Hardacre and Miss Ellan followed the same pattern as the earlier sets—services being returned into the net or off the table far too often. No player appeared to have the ability to keep the ball going for any length of time. The Bath Street pair scraped through to win 21-17 in the third and make their team's score look a bit more respectable.

See-saw game

The second doubles went to Oakhill with Miss Robinson and Mrs. Allen beating Mrs. Parks and Miss Paul without much trouble and with Miss Robinson defeating Mrs. Parks in the next singles Oakhill were assured of victory. The set however was a close one, both players using more cunning than we had hitherto seen. It was probably the highlight of the evening, going first one way and then the other until Miss Robinson finally snatched two points at 19-all in the second.

The two remaining sets were quickly over in two straight, each side taking one, to give Oakhill a somewhat shaky 7-3 win.

I think that in conclusion a word or two about umpiring will not be amiss. Several times throughout the match let services were missed and it should be remembered that the rules of the game state that the ball is in play immediately it leaves the server's hand. One is not supposed to throw it up more than once without losing a point.