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J. H. C. Hughes, J. C. McKim, A. Montgomery

Vol. VIII

FEBRUARY, 1958

No. 3

LOOKING BACK - AND FORWARD

IT is not a bad idea to occasionally sit back and consider the world around us; to take a retrospective look at ourselves; to see our own shortcomings and to count our blessings, and then to look to the future.

Of our blessings in the Liverpool League it would be fair to say that we have had a goodly share. During our existence we have had our ups and downs but these have been weathered and we stand today in a secure position. The fact that we do so is due, in the main, to two factors—the solid foundation laid and the careful nurturing of a puling infant by Les Forrest and the constructive building of Bill Stamp.

As a result table tennis on Merseyside has flourished and continues to do so. That is evidenced not only by the healthy state of our own League but also of our daughter organisation, the Wirral League, which, young though it may be, stands on firm ground.

This is a state of affairs for which we should be very thankful and contrasts shaply with what has happened in our neighbouring county of Yorkshire. There four leagues have wound up, three from the lack of support and the other because they could not find anyone willing to undertake the onerous duties of secretary.

That latter fact should give us all cause for reflection, and particularly those—and there are such people—who argue that they can best serve the League by standing on the sidelines and criticising. We can congratulate ourselves in that we have, thus far, been able to find the man of the hour when we needed him, but that is not to say that we will always be so fortunate.

Is it not, therefore, up to all members of the League to pull together loyally so that we can hand over an equally fine organisation to the next generation. At our last annual general meeting there was a conspicuous absence of a willingness to serve. Yet if the league is to continue an active body there must be this willingness; there must be people ready to take on the administrative jobs.

Is it, therefore, too much to hope that at our next meeting we shall see a greater readiness to work for the good of a game which gives all of us so much pleasure.

SERVICE RULE IN YOUR HANDS

by John McKim

AS many of you will be aware our chairman, Mr. J. H. C. Hughes, has not been well for some months now, and as this article is being written I regret to have to tell you that he has had to enter hospital. I know you will all join me in wishing him a speedy return to full health.

Some little time ago the League was informed that there was a vacancy on the Lancashire executive committee, and the name of our match secretary, Mr. J. McCaig, was put forward by the committee for consideration. We have now been informed that he has, in fact, been elected to the committee.

Complaints have been received about the standard of serving in league and cup matches, but I must make it clear that the committee can do very little about such complaints—"The umpire's decision is final upon points of fact". You, the league members, are the only

people that can help. The rule regarding service is printed in full in your handbooks; it is up to the umpires to enforce it.

Whilst on the subject of umpires I have received a request for three entry forms for county umpire badges. We have very few such umpires in Liverpool to officiate at inter-city matches, tournaments etc. I shall be pleased to provide entry forms for any one interested, and arrange for the necessary practical test in conjunction with the county secretary. It would be a nice change to have next year's Merseyside Open umpired through-out by Liverpool League umpires.

Arrangements are now in hand for the Closed league tournament. Entry forms will be distributed with the next issue of the *Digest*. Please note that the Handbook gives the dates as 9, 10, 11 and 14 April, but this should read 8, 9, 10, 11, 14 April.

MANAGEMENT NOTES

A VOTE of thanks was passed to Mr. McCaig for his work as promoter of the League draw.

Pleasure was expressed by the committee at the feeling at present in the city teams, for which credit must be given to the match secretary and the non-playing captains, Miss Mansell and Messrs. E. and P. Rumjahn.

The League has agreed that once again members of the league should be asked to give an exhibition of table tennis at the Liverpool Play and Recreation Group table tennis finals, at Penryn Road School on March 5.

The following penalties were imposed.

Warnings: University (one short v Liverpool Y.M. B); Aigburth (one late v Linnets C); Beauclair A (one short v Old Xaverians); Albright (did not turn up v Huntley & Palmer).

Fined 5/-: Maghull A (did not turn up v Bath Street C); Police B (one short v West Derby); Rafter's (three short v Waterloo Park); Bohemians A (one short v Orrell).

Fined 10/-: Oakhill (one short v Linacre); Oakhill C (two short v Crawfords); Liverpool Y.M. A (two short v Bath Street).

Anfield B v Rafter's C ordered to be replayed.

SHOCK FOR THE SENIORS

By J. McCaig

LET me begin by giving the remaining home fixtures this season, just in case some of you may wish to come along and encourage our teams.

February 7—Ladies v Wirral; at Beauclair.

February 28—A team v Wigan; at Bohemians.

March 7—First team v St. Helens; at Wavertree Labour.

In addition the men's first team have yet to travel to Wigan and the A team to visit Chester.

Passing on to matches played since you received the last issue of the *Digest*, how correct was my prediction that the Liverpool v Liverpool A game would be a ding-dong battle. It was indeed, and the first team were, to say the least, extremely fortunate to force a 5-5 draw.

Played with Grit

The main credit for this must rest with Arthur Taylor, who won all his three singles and also the doubles in company with Ron Rumjahn. Having said that I make no apologies for singing the praises of the A team. It would be unfair to single out any one of the team, and it was very satisfying to see Les Mulholland, Bill Harris and Wally Allanson play with such grit throughout the match.

Harris looked all set to beat Taylor until the change of ends in the third game, when that extra something emerged from the first team man and Bill dropped behind. Mulholland's defeat of Norman Jones was curious to watch. Norman appeared to have an inferiority complex from the start and Les sensed it, with the result that once Norman was in arrears he seemed to accept the inevitable.

The greatest chance which the A team had of winning, however, was given to Allanson in his game with Taylor. Having contained Arthur

extremely well, Wally found himself leading 18-17 in the third game, with his service to come. At this point he served off the table to make it 18-all and you just cannot afford to present Taylor with such gift points at that stage of a game. So Wally went down 21-19.

A draw was a fair result on the night and the leadership of Division 2 is now jointly held by our first and second teams, with the first team having a slightly better sets average.

Successful debuts

Both teams played Crewe last month and both emerged victorious by the same score—8-2. Two players new to inter-city matches, were introduced into the A team for the match at Bibby's on January 17. Trevor Ellis, of Victoria Park, made a most successful debut by winning all his three sets, plus the doubles with Les Mulholland. John Cain, of Liverpool Y.M.C.A., the other debutant, won two of his three sets and should feel quite happy with his efforts.

The women's team are not doing as well this season and have suffered a further defeat, this time at the hands of Blackpool by seven sets to three, on January 10. Our sets were won by Moya Jones (2) and Pinky Rumjahn.

Joyce Randall, playing in her second representative match, was understandably rather nervous, with the result that her game was somewhat below normal. There would, however, appear to be good hopes of victory for the women in their match, which is against Bury on January 31.

Finally, if any of you think you know of a player in the league who has been overlooked as far as representative games are concerned, will you please let me know. The selectors, I can assure you, have very open minds.

Panel of Umpires

by J. Green

THE inquest on the Merseyside Open, showed once again that the main requirement at any organised table tennis event is an adequate supply of umpires. It is obvious that it is no earthly use leaving this until the final stages of the organisation of the tournament, and it has been decided to form an official Panel of Umpires for future events—this panel to be formed NOW.

The idea is to get a list of as many willing people as possible act as umpires at the Closed and Open tournaments in Liverpool, and, in addition, for a supply of umpires to attend and officiate at the semifinals and finals of the cup competitions.

As must be obvious, we need a fair number of names on our list to provide efficient umpiring at these events. For the Open this year at Dunlops, we reckoned beforehand that we would need a minimum of 36 people to cover 12 tables. In the event we managed with far less, the majority being press-ganged into service on the Saturday, and only then, by reason of some sitting for four or five successive games at the same table.

I am firmly convinced, however, that in Liverpool we have enough members of our own League who would be willing and able to do this job. For the Open we circularised every club asking for volunteers, but I have since been told that there were many secretaries who

did not tell their members, so this time the appeal is coming to you direct, through the columns of the *Digest*.

If you are willing to put your name on this panel of umpires please let me have your name, address, and phone number (if any).

Our chairman, Mr. Jack Hughes, having asked me to form this panel, I want to be able to tell him that we have enough of our own members organised for all future occasions.

There are no special qualifications for the job. As players you should have a working knowledge of the rules, and also of the application of them. You do not need to be a county umpire for this purpose, although it would be an advantage to have a number of people so qualified, and in the event of anyone wishing to take the simple tests to qualify, this can be arranged at your request.

Our main aim is to get a permanent list of League members, who are willing to give up a little of their spare time on odd occasions to act as umpires at official events, and the only real qualification necessary is a willingness to give a little help to the League when they really do need it.

Your name will go on the list if you send it to me at 43 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17.

I do not think that this is too much to ask of the players in Liverpool. Do you?

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THESE ARE YOUR LETTERS

IMAGINATION LACKING

SIR—It seems that the Management Committee are disturbed because of the lack of response by players to enter for the Merseyside Open. Might I suggest that if the Committee took the trouble to send out entry forms to its players individually, they may get a more favourable response.

I, for one, had looked forward to playing in the Open, but I didn't even know the entry forms were out until the last day of entry.

It is no secret that the standard of table tennis in Liverpool is below that of other big provincial cities and if we are not to continue in this state a remedy will have to be found. But before you find a remedy you have to find a cause! After all, it does seem strange that a city of this size cannot find an outstanding player or even any promising youngsters. The answer is obvious—our superiors are not taking the interest they should in their younger players.

There is no coaching scheme in the city and that, I feel, is a grave discrepancy. I, for one, would appreciate a bit of coaching but I can't afford it.

The League should have a coaching scheme; they should have a city junior team, playing against other cities; and they should sponsor the younger players in tournaments around the country. It could certainly pay dividends in the end, and I am sure the necessary finances could be raised.

Hasn't anybody on the Management Committee any sort of imagination, or are they all content to sit round a table patting themselves on the back because a raffle was a success, etc.?

Do they really think that to play the same three players in the City A team is a worthwhile policy, when there are at least fifteen or more players who are as good, or would be with a bit of big match

experience, as the players at present in the side.

Come on, somebody wake up, for goodness sake.

EDWIN CLEIN
(Liverpool Y.M.C.A.)

Editor's note: I would point out to Mr. Clein that the office of Youth Officer on the Management Committee is vacant—waiting for some imaginative person to take it over.

★ ★ ★

TROPHY PRESENTATIONS

SIR—Despite the fact that the agendas for the A.G.M. of the Liverpool League are becoming longer and more contentious as the years go by, valuable time which might otherwise be devoted to lengthier discussion of important topics is continuing to be taken up in the "presentation" of medals to the detriment of all concerned.

Surely, if there is any merit in the winning of trophies the mode of presentation should be such as to enhance, and not detract from, the performance.

Last year's A.G.M. in my opinion, marked the nadir in trophy presentation. Because time did not permit otherwise, "package deals" became the order of the day, with the result that one was treated to the spectacle of harrassed secretaries proceeding to the platform in an undignified procession to receive parcels of medals, in some cases, for several teams, rendering the proceedings even more farcical on occasions when it was appreciated that the recipient of the congratulations had not himself participated in any of the winning teams to which the awards related.

Further, the A.G.M. must, of necessity, take place after the playing season has faded into posterity. Consider then the problem of disposing of the momentos to the

(Your Letters Continued)

individual winners, during a summer season when most clubs are dispersed to the four winds. The post, in these circumstances, becomes an obvious mode of disposal and the feelings of the recipient can well be imagined on his opening a package which appears to contain a small offering to commemorate recent family nuptials, only to find the medal over which he shed so much blood, sweat and (on occasions, almost) tears.

No, sir, the present state of affairs is untenable in a League as important as ours. Cannot the Management Committee arrange for local personalities in the world of sport (not necessarily connected with table tennis, nor, indeed, in a competitive capacity) to attend the various cup finals to present not only the cup to the winning captain, but medals to his teammates at the same time. Even if the standard of play is incapable of attracting the spectators, the advertised presence of say, Billy Liddell, or to please Evertonians, Dave Hickson, should have some part in boosting the gate.

Insofar as League championships are concerned, could not a prominent official of the League, say, the President, Vice-President, Chairman etc. be asked to attend one of the later matches in the season after the identity of the divisional champions has become known, and there present medals to the winners. In the event of the championship of any division not being settled until after the last match has been

played, provision could always be made for such presentations to be made at the A.G.M., but an examination of past records will show that in many cases the identity of divisional champions is known well in advance of the end of the season.

Perhaps the presence "in front of the scenes" of personalities connected with the game might have something to do with a latent revival.

What do the Management Committee feel about these suggestions?

ERIC CAIRD (Rafters)

Editor's note: Let me assure Mr. Caird that his comments and suggestions will receive the careful consideration of the Management Committee, who are, at all times, grateful to receive any helpful and constructive criticism and proposal.

★ ★ ★

Cup Draws

The following are the draws for the semi-finals of the three cups. The ties, of course, are to be played on neutral tables on dates to be arranged.

Readman Cup
Bohemians v Victoria Park
Linnets v Liverpool Y.M.C.A.
Rumjahn Cup
Waterloo Park v Balfour B
Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B v Rafters B
Hyde Cup
Co-op v Victoria Park D
Huntley & Palmers v Florence Oxton

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LEAGUE TABLES

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Linnetts	13	12	0	1	93	37	25
Balfour	12	10	0	2	92	28	22
Rafters	12	10	2	0	82	38	20
L'pool Y.M.	12	8	4	0	67	53	16
Bohemians	13	5	5	3	65	65	13
B'tle Y.M.	13	5	6	2	66	64	12
Victoria Pk	13	4	7	2	61	69	10
Bath St.	12	3	5	4	55	65	10
Balfour A	13	3	8	2	52	78	8
Cadwa	13	3	10	0	40	90	6
Oakhill	13	2	10	1	46	84	5
Lpl Y.M. A	13	1	9	3	41	89	5

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Anfield	13	12	0	1	102	28	25
Litherland	13	10	2	1	91	39	21
Wtrloo Dk	13	7	3	3	75	55	17
Lucem	12	8	3	1	62	58	17
Btle Y.M. A	13	7	4	2	70	60	16
Rafters A	12	5	5	2	60	60	12
I.C.I.	13	4	7	2	48	82	10
Panto	11	3	5	3	48	62	9
Bohs A	13	3	8	2	58	72	8
Vic. Pk. A	13	1	8	4	49	81	6
Anfield A	13	2	10	1	46	84	5
Linnetts A	11	2	9	0	41	69	4

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Wtrloo Pk	11	11	0	0	85	25	22
Oakhill A	12	8	3	1	73	47	17
Eng. Elec.	12	5	2	5	68	52	15
Lofters	11	4	4	3	55	55	11
Linacre	10	4	3	3	46	54	11
Lthrlnd A	10	4	3	3	45	55	11
University	10	4	4	2	48	52	10
Maghull	12	2	8	2	53	67	6
L.P.A.S.	11	2	7	2	46	64	6
Evrtn Y.M.	11	1	6	4	45	65	6
Cadwa A	10	2	7	1	36	64	5

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Btle Y.M. B	13	10	2	1	80	50	21
WvrtreeCC	13	9	3	1	83	47	19
Beauchair	13	8	3	2	78	52	18
Rafters B	13	7	3	3	76	54	17
R.A.F.A.	13	7	4	2	75	55	16
Bath St A	13	6	4	3	69	61	15
Lpl Y.M. B	14	5	5	4	74	66	14
Warbreck	13	5	5	3	61	69	13
Bohs B	13	4	5	4	62	68	12
L.P.A.S. A	12	2	10	0	44	76	4
Aigburth	12	1	9	2	43	77	4
Panto A	13	1	11	1	31	99	3

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Vic. Pk. B	13	12	1	0	87	43	21
Balfour B	13	8	2	3	91	39	19
Fairlawn	13	9	4	0	88	42	18
Harold Hse	13	6	1	6	78	52	18
Lthrlnd B	13	7	4	2	70	60	16
W'loo Pk A	13	5	4	4	72	58	14
Wav. CCA	13	6	5	2	66	64	14
Cadwa B	13	4	7	2	48	82	10
Vic. Pk. C	13	4	8	1	52	78	9
Anfield B	12	2	8	2	42	78	6
Oakhill B	13	1	9	3	40	90	5
Rafters C	12	0	11	1	36	84	1

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Linnetts B	11	9	1	1	82	28	19
Sefton	9	8	0	1	72	18	17
Balfour C	11	7	1	3	72	38	17
Lpl. Y.M. C	11	7	3	1	60	50	15
Bath St B	10	3	4	3	42	58	9
Bohs C	10	2	4	4	47	53	8
Anfield C	11	2	6	3	43	67	7
Btle Y.M. C	11	2	7	2	42	68	6
Ltherlnd C	9	1	6	2	31	59	4
Dom. Miss	11	0	9	2	29	79	2

North Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Wat Dk A	12	11	0	1	90	30	23
Lofters A	13	10	2	1	90	40	21
Btle Nalgo	13	10	3	0	89	41	20
Co-op	13	7	4	2	72	58	16
Wrbrck A	13	6	4	3	71	59	15
Bath St C	13	7	6	0	70	60	14
Bilng & Lee	13	5	6	2	68	62	12
Wat Pk B	13	5	7	1	56	74	11
Eng Elc A	13	3	7	3	56	74	9
R.A.F.Mov	13	2	8	3	45	85	7
Maghull A	12	3	9	0	45	65	6
Tech Studs	13	0	13	0	18	112	0

South Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Flo Oxton	12	10	1	1	93	27	21
Linnetts C	11	8	2	1	66	44	17
Old Xavs	11	6	3	2	64	46	14
Beauchair A	12	5	3	4	70	50	14
Vic Pk D	12	6	4	2	69	51	14
Lussac	12	6	4	2	68	52	14
Wav. Lab.	11	6	4	1	56	54	13
Stanley Hse	12	4	7	1	55	65	9
Beauchair B	12	3	9	0	44	76	6
Aigburth A	11	2	7	2	39	71	6
Linnetts D	12	0	12	0	16	104	0

LEAGUE TABLES

East Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Nalگو . . .	13	12	1	0	104	26	24
Hntly & P	13	11	1	1	98	32	23
W. Derby .	12	10	2	0	91	29	20
L.P.A.S. B	12	8	4	0	76	46	16
Telecomms	13	7	6	0	69	61	14
Nalگو A .	12	6	5	1	65	55	13
Crawfords	13	6	6	1	59	71	13
Fairlawn A	11	4	6	1	45	65	9
Stoneycroft	12	3	8	1	44	76	7
H. & P. A	13	3	10	0	39	91	6
Albrgt & W	13	0	11	2	31	99	2
Oakhill C .	11	0	10	1	21	89	1

Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Balfour . .	12	11	0	1	97	23	23
Cadwa . . .	12	9	0	3	91	29	21
Rafters . .	12	9	3	0	81	39	18
Bibbys . .	13	9	4	0	83	47	18
Bohemians	13	7	4	2	74	56	16
Linnets . .	13	7	4	2	71	59	16
Oakhill . .	13	6	5	2	73	57	14
Bath St. .	13	4	8	1	57	73	9
African Oil	13	2	10	1	40	90	5
Dom Miss	13	2	10	1	32	98	5
Wat. Pk .	12	1	9	2	32	88	4
Cadwa A .	13	1	11	1	29	101	3

Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Orrell . . .	10	10	0	0	96	4	20
Dunlop . .	10	8	2	0	68	32	16
Bohs A . .	10	7	2	1	62	38	15
Rafters A .	11	6	3	2	58	52	14
Bibbys A .	11	5	6	0	50	60	10
Linnets A	10	4	5	1	47	53	9
Sefton . .	10	3	5	2	47	53	8
Hntly & P	11	2	8	1	36	73	5
Anfield . .	10	1	9	0	21	79	2
Anfield A .	8	0	7	1	15	65	1

STAMP MEMORIAL FUND

IT has been decided to close the Stamp Memorial Fund on February 28.

Contributions received so far have not been very encouraging, but it is hoped that this month will see a big response. They should be sent to Mr. S. D. Cameron, 29 Dudlow Lane, Liverpool 18, and cheques and postal orders made payable to Liverpool and District Table Tennis League Stamp Memorial Fund.

Contributions have been received from the following, to whom we express our deepest thanks:

R. C. Juler, Esq., Chester
A. K. Vint, Esq.
J. H. C. Hughes, Esq.
Victoria Park Club.
Bohemians Club.

THE LEAGUE DRAW

I am very happy to tell you that the net result of our draw was a profit of £91/10/1d., a most satisfactory result, writes Jack McCaig.

NOTE:—All outstanding matches must be completed by February 28th, 1958.

Make sure you do not play ineligible players. One Oakhill player has already taken part in 19 matches!

RAILWAYMEN'S SUPRISE

by Eddie Cameron

HAVING usually started these notes with the main divisions, I thought that it would be a welcome change to open this month's with the regions.

The North Region this season is not proving to be the easy passage some expected for last season's "near miss" teams, Co-op and Bath Street C. Waterloo Dock A are making the running, having transferred from an undistinguished Central Region position. Their side of Lightburn, Webster, Beresford, Millin and Alcock, aided by Russel and Poole, are proving the surprise team. Their fine 6-4 victory over Lofters A gave them a clear lead. It was the bottom half of the team which did the damage—Alcock and Beresford scoring good doubles.

Another team which has made great strides this season is Bootle Nalگو. Third from bottom last term, they have reversed the position and will be challenging Lofters A for promotion. Their team is usually Tudor, Winter, Spiers, Lloyd and Cartwright and so far only the leaders, Waterloo Dock and Lofters, have managed to get the better of them.

Lofters A, comprising Day, Griffiths, McDermott, Waterfield and Wilkinson are sticking together despite the vacancy in the first team caused by Beryl Waterson's move to London. Newcomer Lathon moves right into the first team.

Carrying the flag for the North Region in the Hyde Cup is Co-op, but there are three other teams who are convinced that Co-op have now come to the end of their run, although Skipper Jones and his merry men have other ideas.

★ ★ ★

IN the South Region Florence Oxtون had some anxious moments after their first league defeat, 6-4, at Victoria Park. Surely they would not be robbed of promotion again! Linnets C, their closest rivals, were hot on their

heels. But not to worry, Linnets were the next to visit the Park and they also went away pointless, 8-2 down after winning the first two sets.

What of this new Victoria Park team; are they brought down from higher teams? No, sir, four or five are the originals from the start of the season, although they did not manage a full strength team in the early stages. George Cope, captain and coach to the younger element, has seen Harold Malabar strike his pre-Forces form, and Jones and Isterling gain confidence and develop by leaps and bounds. Newcomer Price has added the experience and the South can feel confident that, given the luck of the draw, it can provide the two finalists for the Hyde Cup.

★ ★ ★

THE East Region has developed into a three-cornered fight between West Derby, Huntly and Palmer and Nalگو. As I write West Derby have just suffered a surprising home defeat at the hands of Telecomms and consequently dropped to third place; H. and P. surrendered a home point to a moderate Fairlawn side and left the way open for Nalگو to take over the leadership.

Nalگو's team of Thompson, Houghton, Mellor, Kirk and Highet, are playing with every confidence and look capable of staying put.

Down at the bottom, Oakhill C picked up their first point of the season from fellow travellers in distress, Albright and Wilson. Neither side have won as yet and neither side seem likely to win, but they will continue to fight hard and enjoy their games.

★ ★ ★

THE struggle in Division 6 is still between Sefton and Linnets B, with the latter hoping that their stronger overall resources will carry them through, but both seem assured of Fifth Division play next season.

Problems at Litherland

Domestic Mission, one of the most famous of our clubs and an original league member, have now slipped to bottom place. Fortunes have certainly changed for the Mill Street club, but here again they will continue to turn up an enjoy their game. It is, of course, clubs like that, with years of continuous membership, that are the backbone of the league.

The group of six C teams appear to have found their true level in the division, but it looks like Litherland or Bootle to share relegation places with Domestic.

★ ★ ★

IN Division 5 Victoria Park B came out on top in their vital matches with Fairlawn and Balfour B and now enjoy a four-point lead. The margin of their victories have, however, been the narrowest possible and the title is by no means secure.

Equal on points behind come Balfour, Fairlawn and Harold House, and of these Harold House are potentially the strongest. They have forfeited points to moderate teams and beaten most of the better ones.

Fairlawn had a most unhappy visit in losing 7-3 at Harold House. Running into a big function, they found it impossible to play the match through and, in fact, did not finish until near midnight. They are not complaining but are hoping conditions at Fairlawn, in the return, will help reverse the result.

Rafters C are firmly embedded at the bottom and seem certain to join the C Brigade in Division 6. Any of four teams could accompany them. The most likely appears to be Anfield.

Litherland B are out of danger now, although to repeat their first half victories they may still need to reinforce their team. So far Birmingham, Chew and Cooke, all regular first teamers, have appeared in the B side. In fact, Litherland

appear to have had considerable difficulty in fielding regular teams.

★ ★ ★

DIVISION 4 boasts two of the four Rumjahn Cup semi-finalists. Waterloo Park, from Division 3, could be the winners; much depends on the composition of the team.

Panto A, bottom dogs, gained their first point against semi-finalists Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B, but the Y.M.C.A. accounted for top-of-the-table Wavertree C.C. in the cup.

Aigburth, are not having a very good season. Their team, drawn from Donnelly, Wass, White, Evans, Porter and Jones, looks good enough to improve. Apart from Police A, however, no other team appears to be in the slightest danger.

Top position is a four-cornered fight between Wavertree, Rafters B, Bootle Y.M.C.A. B and Beauclair. The last named recently came unstuck against Rafters B, who consequently joined the other three. As I write Bootle, with a match in hand, are in the best position. Their team of Owen, Keating, Hughes, Craig and Cairns, looks to me good enough to hold top place.

Rafters B may have to sacrifice one of their players to the A team as Mike Gallagher will not be available again this season, due to business commitments. This could leave Beauclair and Wavertree fighting out for second place, with much depending on the return game between the two, to be played at Wavertree.

★ ★ ★

DIVISION 3 is a one-horse race for Waterloo Park; it is impossible for anyone to make even a remote challenge and the Park are regarding league games as practice for their cup semi-final and final—yes, they are confident enough to consider themselves finalists although they do not know the draw.

Consistency of Seddon

English Electric, Linacre or Oakhill A could join them in Division 2 next season, but the gap in playing strength is so great that any of those three teams would be down again in a season. The third division will undoubtedly gain in strength with its new blood next season.

Cadwa A, Police, Everton Y.M. and Maghull are all floundering around the bottom. Of these Police appear good enough to keep out of danger. If they could always field their strongest team they would probably shoot up the table, but in the case of the Police it is always a big IF and they look likely to stay hanging around the bottom.

Maghull, I am told, should not lose at home. Their table is apparently a decided advantage to them and leaves a lot to be desired by visitors.

★ ★ ★

ANFIELD are well away in Division 2 but the runners-up position is not such a sinecure for Litherland as was once thought. At the halfway stage Waterloo Dock were but a point behind. The Railwaymen, like their A team in the North, are undoubtedly the surprise packet of the division, thanks mainly to the excellent performances and consistency of Jack Seddon. I fancy Litherland, will, however, keep their noses in front.

Slipping fast into trouble are Bohemians A. Two of the six points gained in the first half were against Anfield A. In the return they went down 6-4 and are now in the danger zone. Linnets A feel that if they can field their strongest team they will be able to draw clear.

Anfield A also hope to strengthen their side with Barnes or Oakes. Both have plenty of games in hand and either player could change those narrow misses into valuable victories. If these two teams do manage to pull clear Victoria Park A and Bohemians A will be fighting it out for the wooden spoon.

Rafters A, agreeing that their previous lowly position was out of place, have improved somewhat. They now lose Mike Gallagher, but Mike has not had a particularly good season so his replacement may not harm the team's overall ability.

★ ★ ★

HAVING broken the Balfour-Rafters stranglehold on the Readman Cup, Linnets are determined to do the same with the league championship and will be trying hard to maintain their slender lead. It would certainly seem that only Balfour are capable of helping themselves and their return match with Linnets will undoubtedly decide where the title goes.

The bottom of the league is still very interesting. Victoria Park have pulled clear and four teams are now fighting it out—Oakhill, Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A, Cadwa and Balfour A. Of these Oakhill have the players to steer them clear and I fancy that the remaining three will provide the 1 relegation pair.

As is the usual result of these notes, I have been severely reprimanded—this time for daring to suggest that Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A have the weakest Nos. 1 and 2 in the first division.

My critic says: "I certainly agree that D'Arcy is the weakest No. 1" and gives me several pages of reason why the Y.M.C.A. A have not got the weakest No. 2. The critic?—Why, E. Clein, the No. 2, of course. It is the first time I have been given credit of being half right, anyway. Clein went on to reinforce his argument by beating Pierce of Linnets, and is no doubt now feeling on top of the world.

Now it is my turn to tell you off. Your score cards are coming in too late too often. A few shilling automatic fines will soon be on the way.

TEAM OF YOUNGSTERS

By Eileen Mansell

NOW that the Christmas and New Year festivities are over no doubt the ladies will all be trying to get a few inches off their vital statistics and will be taking their weekly exercise very seriously.

The league table still stands more or less as it did at the time of the last issue. Balfour top Division 1, with Cadwa a very close second. It will be interesting to see whether Balfour can maintain their lead. The first time these two teams met, the result was a draw.

Orrell are walking Division 2, with Dunlops in second place and Bohemians A challenging them. It is nice to see that Bohs' second team is made up of more or less four youngsters. Their average age is around 18.

This is as it should be for it has been most disappointing to the Management Committee that there isn't a young Liverpool women's team—by young I mean around 17 or 18, which is the average age of the Manchester team. If, however, all the young players in the league would practice, practice, practice, I am sure Liverpool would soon be able to turn out a team to beat the best of them.

Bath Street's match against Rafter's—the first match after the holidays—resulted in a 9-1 victory for Rafter's, B. Ellam being the only one to gain a win for Bath Street. She had a very good match with R. McMullen, beating her 21-17 in the third. The doubles match in which she partnered E. Allans against R. McMullen and E. Loughrey was also closely contested, the Rafter's pair only just winning 21-19 in the third.

T. McCabe, of African Oil, is getting back into her stride after changing over from sponge to rubber. At first this must have been disconcerting, but judging from her records she is having some good matches if not always winning them. She beat Mrs. E. Moore, of Oakhill, 18-21, 22-20, 21-15, a good feat against such an experienced player as Edna.

Incidentally it is nice to see Edna once again turning out for Oakhill after being out of the game for two

or three seasons. I am sure she will be a great asset to her team.

Rafter's A and Bohemians A had a good match, resulting in a draw. May Evans won both her singles and a doubles for Rafter's, while L. Langton and P. Adamson each won two singles and P. Cassidy one for Bohs. This must have been a well fought match, with P. Adamson having two very good three-game sets.

D. Lewis, of Anfield A, did well to win her two singles and her doubles against Bibby's A. They were the only three success Anfield gained. M. Flannery, of Linnets, is a player I am surprised does not get better results. She plays a good all round game but is always just a little over-anxious. Perhaps if she learned to control her back-hand flick she would find her results would be better. Still this will come with experience.

If the women would only worry the men in their clubs for practice I am sure they would find a big improvement in their game. It is only by playing people better than yourself that your game improves and the better your play the more you enjoy your game. So girls, don't be afraid of asking them. I am sure they will oblige if you go about it the right way.

A trial match has been arranged for Saturday, February 15, at Rafter's, commencing at 7.30 p.m. The players taking part are the May twins, M. Jones, M. Wilcock, B. Fenetty, J. Randall and J. Roberts. If anybody cares to come along they will be welcome. I am sure it will create a little interest among the players and also help the selection committee.

It is a little early to mention the League Closed Championships but I would like to ask all the women in the league to try and enter the tournament and so make it a success. I am sure they would enjoy the friendly spirit in which tournaments are played. Competitive play always creates interest and conditions are good. So please enter and in the meantime keep on practising, but above all, enjoy your game.

Little but Good

by Joe Ellison

DOWN Bootle way is a diminutive youngster who with the right type of encouragement and guidance could go a long way in table tennis. His name?—Peter Keating.

Peter was quite the outstanding player in the Bootle Y.M.C.A. B match with Police A at the Y.M.C.A. He played brilliantly for one so small, in disposing of Catterson 21-9, 21-17, and if only he would take a little more time over his services, he would improve his play tremendously. On two or three occasions he was in such a hurry that he hit his services into the net without the ball landing on his side of the table.

His clash with Gauld, who came in as reserve for a player detained by duty, was the highlight of the evening, for he made his much bigger opponent struggle for every point. Experience told in the end and gave Gauld victory by 21-15 in the third.

Unknown word

The Police got off to a good start with Bracewell scoring a quick two-straight win over K. Hughes, using a good two-wing attack with which he mixed solid defence. Hughes seemed never to have heard of the word defence. Every ball that came his way had to be hit, with the result that he wasted many opportunities.

Cairns levelled matters for Bootle with a 21-11, 21-11 win over Mitchell, who was never a match for his younger opponent. Considering his lack of practice, Cairns frequently had his opponent wrong-footed by using the table to advantage.

Hughes put Bootle in the lead by

beating penholder Conroy in the third. His game had improved sufficiently that he was able to find a length, and by hitting down Conroy's backhand forced him into many mistakes. Nevertheless Conroy also managed some mighty hitting which, against a player with no defence, gained him many points.

Then came Keating's win over Catterson and the Y.M.C.A. went into a 4-1 interval through Cairns beating Bracewell 21-11 in the third. I had expected this to have been the best set of the match but it faded after each had taken a game and Bracewell appeared to tire.

Deserved lead

The Y.M.C.A. had merited their lead and they made sure of a point when Owen took the next set on the resumption 21-19 from Mitchell in a match that had nothing to make it noteworthy.

The next set also went to three, and to Bootle to give them victory, Craig winning the decider rather comfortably, 21-8, from Catterson.

Gauld's win over Keating made the Police score slightly more respectable and with the two remaining sets being shared without having caused any real excitement—possibly due to the fact that the issue had already been decided—Bootle ran out winners by seven sets to three.

Both teams, however, could congratulate themselves that they had not been playing one of the Linnets teams. At 7.45 there were present one Bootle layer and two Police and it was 8.5 before the match got under way. See what I mean!

DIGEST PUZZLE

Mr. Don Cameron has compiled another puzzle for the *Digest*. Although it is chiefly for the amusement of our readers, the Management Committee will give a prize of 12 table tennis balls to the sender of the first correct solution opened. Send your solutions to Mr. S. D. Cameron, 29 Dudlow Lane, Liverpool, 18. The Editor's decision is final.

The puzzle concerns two women's teams, playing four aside, eight singles and two doubles.

The B team, ably captained by Miss Mary Jones, arrived early and the game started soon after quarter past seven. In the singles no two players whose surnames began with the same letter played against each other. Other clues are:—

1. Miss Brown won both her sets in 2 straight, she had 16 scored against her in her first game versus No. 4.
2. Miss Williams beat A's No. 3 in 2 straight. The loser improving on her scores of her other set by 2 in each case.
3. Miss M. Jones and her married sister beat their opposing pair in 3 games, losing the middle game 17 but reversing this in the 3rd.
4. A's No. 1 played B's captain and lost in 2 straight the scores being identical and were also the exact time the match started.
5. Miss James won one set 15 and 19 and scored the same total of points in her other set.
6. Miss M. Jones' sister lost to the opposing No. 2.
7. B's captain won her 2nd set. Her opponent doing 75 per cent better in the second game to reach double figures.
8. Mrs. Roberts lost to Miss Watson.
9. Miss James and Miss Smith won their doubles after losing the first game 18 and scoring three times as many as their opponents in the 3rd game.
10. A's No. 2 (Miss Jackson) beat B's No. 1 after losing the first game the score was the same in all three games.
11. Miss Watson for the A team won one of her sets allowing her opponent to score twice as many in each game as Miss Watson had scored in her first set.
12. A's points in column 1 equals 147. Both points in column 2 equal 178. B's points in column 3 equal 36.

A	B	Games			Sets
		1	2	3	
1	1				
1	2				
2	1				
2	3				
3	2				
3	4				
4	3				
4	4				
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