

MARCH 1958



Vol. VIII. No. 4

Price 6d.

**TABLE
TENNIS
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

Published during the months of Nov., Dec., Feb., March and April. Season subscription 3s.9d. post free

EDITORIAL BOARD:

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Vol. VIII

March, 1958

No. 4

IMPORTANT TO YOU

ALTHOUGH the Annual General Meeting is still some two months away there are two subjects of such intense importance likely to come up for discussion, that it seems to us they should first be considered in the clubs and guidance given to those representatives who will be at the meeting. Far too often, we believe, club representatives attend Annual General Meetings without having had some guidance from the members of their clubs on specific matters.

One of the subjects to which we refer are the proposals by the Management Committee regarding the League's finances. These are explained on other pages by our Chairman and we believe they will be so surprising in their nature as to create widespread interest throughout the League.

But is it fair to allow your representatives to attend the A.G.M. where such proposals are to be discussed without first considering the matter yourself? We think not. After all it is your money that is concerned.

The second subject can be one of equal importance to every individual member of the League. It is the proposal that football pools should be organised in aid of the E.T.T.A., principally to finance the establishment of headquarters.

Without being in any way spoilsports, we believe we can see danger in those proposals, both from a moral and legal point of view. There is no doubt that the incidence of gambling is high throughout the country and we cannot believe that anyone with the best interests of the country at heart would like to see it increased. Unless, therefore, the proposed pools can siphon off some of the money already going to established pools—and we doubt that—the proposal must increase the amount spent on gambling.

One of the suggestions is that leagues should encourage their members to act as agents. The legality of that is extremely doubtful, and our officials would be wise to consider the point most seriously. In addition, do we want the thousands of youngsters who play table tennis to be mixed up with pools? We think not, and hope you do likewise.

Direct Help for Clubs

Examples that come to mind are where a club finds it has to vacate its premises and will have to give up if it cannot find the necessary deposit to put down for a new club room. Again financial help could be given to a club to purchase a new table.

Each case would need to be dealt with on its merits and the necessary safeguards would have to be employed.

A maximum amount of, say, £50 would be the limit to any one club and a maximum percentage of League capital would only be allowed out on loan at any one time.

The details of this scheme require to be worked out but these are the broad outlines of the Committee's financial policy.

The Committee believe that if they show members that they are prepared to put any profit back into the game, then they are entitled to expect that members in their turn will support the Closed Championship, Open Merseyside and any events that the Committee may run.

They are encouraged in this belief by the excellent response to the recent draw.

This account has been lengthier than is usual for one in the *Digest*, but I am desirous of explaining as fully as possible the Committee's future policy, and trust that it will have answered in full measure the question posed by the Secretary B at the start of this article.

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One Victory More Needed

IT only remains now, for our first team to defeat St Helens at Wavertree Labour Club on Friday, March 7 to ensure that we regain our former position in Division 1 of the Lancashire and Cheshire League.

The team entrusted with the task of taking both points from St. Helens will be A. C. Taylor, N. R. Jones and W. Harris, and although they ought to win the match, nothing is ever certain, and we must just wait and see. I am sure that all three players will give their utmost so that next season we can once again do battle with top class sides such as Manchester and Bolton.

Since the last *Digest*, the first team has registered a victory at Wigan by 9 sets to 1, whilst the A team were surprisingly beaten at Chester by 6 sets to 4. Peter Rumjahn tells me that only Bill Harris seemed able to adapt his game to suit the slippery conditions, and did gain two victories, whilst Les Mulholland and Wally Allanson won one set each.

The A team have one more fixture to fulfil, that against Wigan which is to be played at Bohemians on Friday, February 28 when the team will be T. Ellis, J. Cain and W. McKechnie. McKechnie, who has been playing so well recently for Balfour A, gains his first representative honour.

Veterans

The women's team, thanks to victories in their final two matches of 7-3 and 6-4 against Wirral and Bury respectively, have finished in the middle of Division 1. Moya Jones was unable to play in either of these games, and Eileen Mansell was persuaded to emerge from semi-retirement, and join forces with Bluey Casselman, Pinkie Rumjahn and Joyce Randall.

It does seem strange that three of these four girls can still more than hold their own ten years and more since first playing for Liverpool.

As chairman of Liverpool selection committee, I feel that it is an opportune moment to comment on the policies which were adopted in

choosing teams this season, particularly as far as the men's teams were concerned.

The committee had one paramount objective, that of ensuring, if humanly possible, that the first team gained promotion to Division 1. Therefore, no experiments whatever have been made, with players being selected strictly on current form and results. I hope that by the time you read these comments, this objective has, in fact, been realised.

Now let me deal with the A team, possibly a source of a little controversy as far as selections were concerned.

Two objects

A directive from the Management Committee instructed the Selection Committee to choose players who were considered to be showing promise, whilst giving them the right to use their own discretion. The committee have endeavoured to do this, while bearing in mind two other factors. One was that the A team must help our first team by defeating, if possible, other teams in the same division, and the other to ensure that it maintained its own position in the division in order to give future A team players better games, and therefore experience, next season.

It is always difficult to please everyone, but the committee has tried to be fair, and in fact has chosen seven players to represent the A team in only the same number of matches, bearing in mind that Lancashire League matches are confined, virtually, to teams of three.

It has been suggested that there are upwards of fifteen players just as good as those selected to play, but it is rather odd that despite my request last month for information concerning potential Liverpool representative players, not one single approach has been made to me, or to any other member of the Selection Committee in this connection.

Finally, please remember that only players having opted to play for Liverpool are considered for selection.

WORTHY OF HIGHER SPHERES

by Joe Ellison

THERE was much honest endeavour if not a lot of good table tennis about the Third Division battle between English Electric and Linacre, and the outstanding impression which the match left on me was that Sanderson of the home team is a player worthy of a higher division.

On the night he was quite the best player on view and his polished display gave him two straight games victories over J. Davidson and "Man Mountain" Larkin. His match with the former was marked by the hitting of both players but with Sanderson the more accurate he always dictated the course of the game.

There seems to be little bite about the play in the lower divisions of the league and this was particularly noticeable in this match. It is probably largely due to lack of practice and concentration and in some cases to a luke warm interest.

Good Start

Linacre got away to a good start when Davidson, using the table to advantage with some good attacking shots, scored a 21-16 21-16 win over Jack Lambert, but E. Smitton quickly levelled the scores after an exciting tussle with Larkin, marked by much sweat and many "Ohs" and "Ahs".

F. Lacey put Linacre ahead again when giving a display strangely reminiscent of Balfour's Les Davies he beat J. Longstaffe 11 and 15, and Reeve made it 3-1 for Linacre with a comfortable 9 and 15 win over English Electric's Darlington.

They went further ahead when

D. McGonigle beat Longstaffe after the former had won the first game only to fade away. In the third the Linacre player frequently had him wrong-footed to win 21-12.

The next set brought on Sanderson for the first time and after he had duly beaten Davidson, Linacre made sure of a point when Lacey won a gruelling set 19 in the third against Smitton. He cleverly mixed drop services with half volleys against Smitton's hard hitting in a match which lasted 20 minutes and left both men exhausted.

With the English Electric now up against it, Jack Lambert made a fine recovery after losing his first game to Reeve. He found a good length and by using his long reach effectively made his smaller opponent move around a lot and leave quite open spaces which Lambert exploited to the full.

With Sanderson beating Larkin, despite the latter's surprising agility, things looked more healthy for the English Electric but their opponents made sure of the points when McGonigle disposed of Darlington 17 and 17. It was a victory they well deserved.

Most awkward player on view was undoubtedly Linacre's Lacey. Like the majority of penholders, he is a difficult man to beat at the best of times.

Let me end by handing a bouquet to Darlington of English Electric. Jack Lambert told me he had recently undergone an operation and was not really fit to play but had done so as no reserve was available. A good clubman, this Darlington!

LEAGUE TABLES

Division 1

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Linnets | 18 | 17 | 0 | 1 | 133 | 47 | 35 |
| Balfour | 17 | 15 | 0 | 2 | 130 | 40 | 32 |
| Rafters | 17 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 112 | 58 | 28 |
| L'pool Y.M. | 18 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 96 | 84 | 22 |
| Bootle Y.M. | 18 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 93 | 87 | 18 |
| Bohemians | 17 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 83 | 87 | 16 |
| Victoria Park | 18 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 83 | 97 | 15 |
| Bath Street | 17 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 74 | 96 | 12 |
| Balfour A | 18 | 4 | 11 | 3 | 75 | 105 | 11 |
| L'pool Y.M. A | 18 | 2 | 11 | 5 | 65 | 115 | 9 |
| Oakhill | 17 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 56 | 114 | 6 |
| Cadwa | 17 | 3 | 14 | 0 | 50 | 120 | 6 |

Division 2

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Anfield | 18 | 17 | 0 | 1 | 140 | 40 | 35 |
| Litherland | 17 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 120 | 50 | 28 |
| Bootle Y.M. A | 18 | 11 | 4 | 3 | 104 | 76 | 25 |
| Waterloo Dk | 18 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 104 | 76 | 25 |
| Lucem | 17 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 86 | 84 | 21 |
| Rafters A | 17 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 86 | 82 | 18 |
| I.C.I. | 18 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 68 | 112 | 14 |
| Bohs. A | 18 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 82 | 98 | 13 |
| Panto | 18 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 79 | 101 | 12 |
| Linnets A | 18 | 4 | 14 | 0 | 68 | 110 | 8 |
| Anfield A | 17 | 3 | 13 | 1 | 60 | 110 | 7 |
| Victoria Pk A | 18 | 1 | 13 | 4 | 61 | 119 | 6 |

Division 3

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|------------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|----|-----|
| Waterloo Pk. | 15 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 119 | 31 | 30 |
| Oakhill A | 17 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 97 | 73 | 22 |
| Litherland A | 16 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 85 | 75 | 20 |
| English Elec. | 16 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 82 | 78 | 17 |
| Linacre | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 69 | 81 | 16 |
| Lofters | 16 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 77 | 83 | 15 |
| Everton Y.M. | 17 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 77 | 93 | 14 |
| L.P.A.S. | 16 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 77 | 83 | 13 |
| University | 16 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 61 | 99 | 11 |
| Cadwa A | 16 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 66 | 94 | 10 |
| Maghull | 16 | 2 | 11 | 3 | 69 | 91 | 7 |

Division 4

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-------|
| Bootle Y.M. B | 18 | 15 | 2 | 1 | 116 | 64 | 31 35 |
| Wavertree CC | 18 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 120 | 60 | 29 33 |
| Beauchair | 18 | 12 | 4 | 2 | 110 | 70 | 26 27 |
| Rafters B | 17 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 101 | 69 | 23 27 |
| R.A.F.A. | 16 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 94 | 66 | 20 25 |
| Bath St. A | 18 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 91 | 89 | 19 |
| Bohs. B | 18 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 82 | 98 | 16 |
| Warbreck | 17 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 79 | 91 | 15 |
| L'pool Y.M. B | 17 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 85 | 85 | 14 |
| Aigburth | 17 | 3 | 12 | 2 | 64 | 106 | 8 |
| L.P.A.S. A | 18 | 3 | 15 | 0 | 65 | 115 | 6 |
| Panto A | 18 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 43 | 137 | 3 |

Division 5

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Victoria Pk B | 18 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 126 | 54 | 33 |
| Balfour B | 18 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 125 | 55 | 26 |
| Fairlawn | 18 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 120 | 60 | 24 |
| Wtrloo Pk A | 18 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 103 | 77 | 22 |
| Litherland B. | 18 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 95 | 85 | 22 |
| Harold House | 16 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 91 | 69 | 20 |
| Wvrtree CC A | 18 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 90 | 90 | 19 |
| Victoria Pk C | 17 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 67 | 103 | 12 |
| Cadwa B | 18 | 5 | 11 | 2 | 66 | 114 | 12 |
| Oakhill B | 18 | 3 | 11 | 4 | 62 | 118 | 10 |
| Anfield B | 18 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 60 | 120 | 8 |
| Rafters C | 17 | 1 | 14 | 2 | 55 | 115 | 4 |

Division 6

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Sefton | 14 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 111 | 29 | 26 |
| Linnets B | 15 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 104 | 46 | 23 |
| Balfour C | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 89 | 51 | 20 |
| L'pool Y.M. C | 14 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 68 | 72 | 17 |
| Bootle Y.M. C | 15 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 75 | 75 | 14 |
| Bath St. B | 14 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 60 | 80 | 13 |
| Litherland C | 15 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 61 | 89 | 11 |
| Bohs. C | 14 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 53 | 87 | 8 |
| Dom. Mission | 16 | 2 | 11 | 3 | 58 | 102 | 7 |
| Anfield C | 15 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 51 | 99 | 7 |

North Region

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Watrloo Dk A | 18 | 16 | 0 | 2 | 134 | 46 | 34 |
| Lofters A | 18 | 15 | 2 | 1 | 128 | 52 | 31 |
| Bootle Nalco | 18 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 125 | 55 | 27 |
| Warbreck A | 18 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 107 | 73 | 21 |
| Co-op. | 18 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 96 | 84 | 20 |
| Eng. Elec. A | 18 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 92 | 88 | 19 |
| Watrloo Pk B | 18 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 82 | 98 | 17 |
| Bath St. C | 17 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 82 | 88 | 16 |
| Belling & Lee | 17 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 87 | 83 | 14 |
| R.A.F. Movs. | 18 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 63 | 117 | 9 |
| Maghull A | 18 | 3 | 15 | 0 | 45 | 125 | 6 |
| Tech. Studs. | 18 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 29 | 151 | 0 |

South Region

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Flo. Oxtou | 16 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 118 | 42 | 26 |
| Linnets C | 16 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 91 | 69 | 24 |
| Lussac | 17 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 110 | 60 | 22 |
| Victoria Pk D | 16 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 100 | 60 | 20 |
| Old Xavs. | 16 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 91 | 69 | 19 |
| Beauchair A | 17 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 96 | 74 | 17 |
| Wvrtree Lab. | 16 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 78 | 82 | 16 |
| Aiburth A | 16 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 71 | 89 | 13 |
| Stanley House | 16 | 4 | 11 | 1 | 55 | 105 | 9 |
| Beauchair B | 17 | 4 | 13 | 0 | 59 | 111 | 8 |
| Linnets D | 17 | 1 | 16 | 0 | 31 | 139 | 2 |

LEAGUE TABLES

East Region

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Nalگو | 18 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 144 | 36 | 33 |
| Huntley & P | 18 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 138 | 42 | 33 |
| West Derby | 18 | 15 | 2 | 1 | 132 | 48 | 31 |
| L.P.A.S. B | 18 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 118 | 62 | 27 |
| Telecomms | 18 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 106 | 74 | 22 |
| Crawfords | 18 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 74 | 106 | 17 |
| Nalگو A | 18 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 85 | 95 | 15 |
| Fairlawn A | 18 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 83 | 97 | 15 |
| Stoneycroft | 18 | 5 | 12 | 1 | 68 | 112 | 11 |
| Huntley&P A | 18 | 3 | 15 | 0 | 48 | 132 | 6 |
| Albrgt&Wlsn | 18 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 44 | 136 | 4 |
| Oakhill C | 18 | 0 | 16 | 2 | 40 | 140 | 2 |

Women's Division 1

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|------------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Cadwa | 17 | 13 | 1 | 3 | 126 | 44 | 29 |
| Balfour | 16 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 117 | 43 | 27 |
| Rafters | 17 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 114 | 56 | 25 |
| Bibbys | 16 | 11 | 5 | 0 | 101 | 59 | 22 |
| Bohemians | 17 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 96 | 74 | 21 |
| L'nnets | 18 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 94 | 86 | 20 |
| Oakhill | 16 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 89 | 71 | 18 |
| Bath Street | 17 | 6 | 10 | 1 | 80 | 90 | 13 |
| African Oil | 17 | 5 | 11 | 2 | 65 | 105 | 11 |
| Dom. Mission | 16 | 3 | 12 | 1 | 43 | 117 | 7 |
| Waterloo Pk | 17 | 1 | 14 | 2 | 41 | 129 | 4 |
| Cadwa A | 18 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 44 | 136 | 3 |

Women's Division 2

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Orrell | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 133 | 7 | 28 |
| Dunlop | 15 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 102 | 48 | 24 |
| Bohs. A | 14 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 92 | 48 | 22 |
| Rafters A | 14 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 74 | 66 | 17 |
| Linnets A | 15 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 75 | 75 | 16 |
| Sefton | 15 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 76 | 74 | 13 |
| Bibbys A | 16 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 64 | 96 | 12 |
| Huntley & P | 14 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 43 | 97 | 6 |
| Anfield A | 15 | 2 | 11 | 2 | 40 | 110 | 6 |
| Anfield | 14 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 30 | 110 | 2 |

STAMP MEMORIAL FUND

AT the closing date of the Stamp Memorial Fund the total contributions amounted to £37/9/6. This is a most disappointing total and is, it is regretted to say, a sad reflection upon the League and its members. Out of a total of 52 clubs in the league only 10 have made any contribution, 6 individual members made a contribution and 8 were received from people outside the League.

We would like to express our deepest thanks to the following:—

Liverpool Business Houses League.
I.C.I. Club.
Panto Club.
Sefton General Club.
Beauclair Club.
Litherland Club.
Rafters Club.
Lussac Club.
Florence Oxtou Club.
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Vital Date March 18

by Eddie Cameron

THE league championship will be decided on March 18 at Balfour when Linnets are the visitors. A draw will be good enough for the Lark Lane side but Balfour must win.

Linnets team of Bill Pierce, Roy Jones, Don Hobbs, Frank Thomas and Eric Davies will be all out to put a new name in the championship list. If they do it not only will it be a team triumph but a personal triumph for Secretary Jim Green.

Jim tells me this is his last season as secretary of Linnets. I would not be surprised, however, if his retirement is postponed. Give him credit for the very existence of the Linnets Club. They have had their ups and downs with players and premises, but the club has gone from strength to strength, climbed the league table and are now within an ace of their most treasured prize of all.

McKechnie's Claim

At Balfour Les Mulholland, Norman Jones, Reg Hetherington, Harold Wilcock and Les Davies do not intend to let the championship slip without a fight. The first fight however, could well be in team selection. Bill McKechnie, currently chosen for Liverpool A, has been staking a strong claim for inclusion in the Balfour first team.

It will be a tough fight at Smithdown Road and, sticking my neck out as usual, I think Balfour's experience will be good enough with home advantage to gain the day.

Even if they fail, Linnets have, however, one consolation. The Readman Cup is well within their reach and the winning of it should not prove half as difficult a task as the league championship.

Down at the bottom Oakhill and Cadwa share the big drop position. Oakhill are missing Basil Townsend and Jack Dancaster, both of whom have only played the odd game. Odd thing, however, is that Jackie Grant and Bill Jones cannot make the first team. Both have reasonable first division records, but Grant is a regular A teamer and Jones regularly in the C team.

★ ★ ★

AS was expected in Division 2, Anfield and Litherland are still Nos. 1 and 2, with Waterloo Dock making a brave but despairing effort to catch up.

Down at the bottom Jim Houghton and his lads, including yours truly, from Victoria Park A appear doomed. For myself it is said that I write better notes than I play table tennis. As the only comments received on these notes are adverse, you can imagine my style of game.

Lost Zip

Keith Horne is nearly as bad as myself; Ken Park has lost the zip he had when recording victories over such as Alan Lawson, and of the odd bods who have filled in at No. 5 none have been "in" long enough to settle down.

LITHERLAND A's CHANCES

Linnets A have made a strong bid to lift themselves clear. Without Ted Morris they faced Anfield A when a win would have meant freedom from worry. Anfield, however, decided to call on Ted Barnes from the first team to play his second A team match of the season and Anfield A won it 7-3.

Anfield have had a regular first team man out against each of the three other relegation-fearing clubs. These three are all clubs with first division teams, but all three would rather be relegated than turn out their seniors.

★ ★ ★

WATERLOO PARK have won Division 3. Oakhill A, strong contenders until a few weeks ago, have gone completely to pieces, so that Litherland A, English Electric and Everton Y.M.C.A. are now all possibles.

Of those three Litherland probably have the best chance, more so in view of the fact that they are not particular where they play their players.

Not wanted

Cadwa A are well away from the bottom rung and have handed over to Maghull, who are now firmly embedded and certain relegation candidates. Cadwa, however, are finding it hard to pass on the second relegation position. Police, University and Lofters are all thereabouts, with University possibly the most likely of them to take over.

★ ★ ★

BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. A look likely winners of Division 4. Skipper Owen has a strong side in Cairns, Craig, Hughes and Keating, and they are confident enough to anticipate a victorious run-out in their remaining matches.

Wavertree appear to be the only possible side to stop them, but by the time they clash in the last match of the season, it may be too late.

Wavertree's team of Tarr, Siddall, Travis, Inge and Locker certainly deserve to succeed. They missed promotion last season by the narrowest possible margin and are hoping Rafterers B do not pip them for second place this term.

Panto A should find Division 5 more to their liking next season. Division 4 has been too much for them. Aigburth and Police A are still struggling along. Both seem determined to keep in step. Possibly both envy Panto and their assurance of an easier life next season.

★ ★ ★

VICTORIA PARK B are just as anxious to sample Division 4 next term. Their lead in Division 5 is well nigh impregnable and greatest interest lies in the Balfour B-Fairlawn battle for second place.

Chance Lost

There was a possibility of one forging ahead the other week but their league clash produced a 5-5 draw. For Balfour, Evans, Flison, Randall, Dickinson and Mrs. Randall all managed one set. For Fairlawn, Sanders and Carter both picked up a double and Partington won one set. Leeson and Phillips were unlucky enough to get doubles the wrong way.

At the bottom a similar state of affairs exists. Rafterers C appear to be booked for Division 6, while Anfield B, Oakhill B and Cadwa B fight it out for the pleasure of joining them.

COURAGEOUS STUDENTS

DIVISION 6 has unfortunately been further weakened by the resignation of Liverpool Y.M.C.A. C. The Y.M. did, however, have the courage to drop an established team rather than be forced to use reserves from higher teams, following the dropping out of some of their lower junior reserves. All games are therefore recorded as 10-0 victories in the remaining matches. Don't forget to add this to your score cards.

Anfield C, Domestic Mission and Bohemians C are all fighting it out at the bottom. Litherland C have recently pulled themselves almost clear, with the help of an odd game from friends Cooke and Chew.

★ ★ ★

THERE has been very little change in the North Region. Waterloo Park B and English Electric A have climbed a few places. Technical Students are courageously battling on but still not managing to pick up a point. They get two points in the last match of the season from a walk-over against Maghull A, who are, of course, out.

Waterloo Dock are still way out on top, although Bootle Nalگو did themselves proud by forcing a 5-5 draw with the leaders.

LINNETS C are still in the hunt in the South Region—now only two points behind again after Florence Oxtou surprisingly surrendered a point at home to Wavertree Labour.

Try-out Team

Linnets D recorded their first points with their walk-over against Stanley House, another club which has resigned. Linnets do not really mind. Their club as a whole is doing so well and their D team is the try-out team for youngsters.

Lussac are probably the team of the moment in the region, and although it may be too late this season, look out for fireworks from Leeming, Goodall, Rattigan and the two Holmes, H. and W. next year.

★ ★ ★

THE East Region is still very much open. Nalگو, Huntley & Palmer, and West Derby are all very much in the hunt. Particular credit goes to the new club, West Derby, although they may well finish the worst off of the trio.

The key to the region will probably be the meeting at Huntley & Palmers of the biscuitmen and Nalگو. From all accounts this is the most thrilling finish the region has seen for some time.

Elsewhere there is very little change. Once again the bottom club, Oakhill C in this case, are finding it almost impossible to scratch another point to add to the lonely one picked up in January.

Entry Should Be Better

By Eileen Mansell

WITH this issue of the *Digest* you will be receiving an entry form for the League Closed tournament in April, so once more I am appealing to all the women members of the league to do their best to enter.

In past years we have had a very poor response, so please see what you can do as it is for the players' benefit and not the Management Committee's, that the tournament is held.

Mrs. K. Casselman (Bluey May), the holder, will no doubt go all out to see if she can win it for the second year running. At the moment, and indeed in all the inter-city matches, Bluey has been playing extremely well and it is due in no small measure to her efforts that the Liverpool women's team has been saved from relegation next season.

Her Best

Congratulations to Mrs. Moya Jones on her great performance in the Cheshire Open in defeating Miss Audrey Bates, the Welsh international and No. 1 seed. This is undoubtedly the best victory of her career and it was a great pity that she had to lose to Miss Ivy Haney, the Lancashire county player. But she was compensated for this by winning in partnership with Vic Chesham, the mixed doubles title for the first time.

Congratulations also to Miss Reg Royle, of Bibby's, on winning the Business Houses Championship by defeating Mrs. Myra Lovelady, of Rafters, in the final. I see that Myra got her revenge in the Liverpool League match when Rafters played Bibby's. She beat Reg in the third game though Bibby's eventually won the match 6-4. This was a very good effort.

Cadwa's first team have now jumped ahead of Balfour and are leading them by two points though at the time of writing Balfour still have a game in hand. If they want to regain their lead the next match must be won by at least 9-1.

The tie between these two clubs was most exciting. Cadwa ran out winners by six sets to four. Betty Black, of Cadwa, had a good match against Julie Roberts and beat her in two straight. Julie must learn to serve on to the table. She throws quite a few points away with her serve.

This seems to be a fault common to quite a few players, but no point should be lost in such a way; it is just carelessness.

Ding-Dong Battle

Betty's second match against Mrs. Olive Dickinson was a ding-dong battle, with Olive putting all she knew into it and eventually running out the winner. Olive, in fact, played like a trojan and won both her sets. The younger members of the league might well take a lead from her. She fights to the last point and gives the best she's got.

Orrell, who are still top of the second division, had a decisive win over their nearest rivals, Dunlops, by nine sets to one, Dunlops winning one of the doubles sets.

Anfield beat their first team 7-3. This seems a little unusual but no doubt these players are all used to playing each other and know each others game inside out.

Linnets A had a close match with Sefton, which they won 6-4. These two teams are fairly evenly matched and some of the games were very close. It is much more enjoyable when the respective strength is fairly even and the match is close. The interest is held to the end.

A SHORT - SIGHTED RULE

We have received the following letter from Mr. Eric Caird, chairman of Rafter's:—

I read with interest the Editorial, 'Looking Back—And Forward' in last month's issue of the *Digest*, with particular reference to your comments regarding the lack of individuals willing to serve on the Management Committee of the League.

A moment's reflection throws up an interesting sidelight on this issue, in that there is a distinct possibility that recruitment to the Management is deterred not so much by lack of interest, as by exclusion through suspicion.

A few years ago there was introduced a rule to the effect that not more than two members of the same club could serve on the Management Committee on the grounds that the lack of such a limitation would lead to the dominance of the League by one or two individual clubs.

Exactly how much administrative ability which otherwise would be available for the benefit of every individual member of the League is lost because of such a short-sighted rule, is difficult to assess.

Is it not fair to say that in the case of a club having a membership of say, 50, of whom two are already members of the Management Committee, the remaining 48 are barred from participating in the management of the League, irrespective of individual capabilities and/or enthusiasm for the game?

May I, through the medium of your columns, urge all who have the

interest of Liverpool table tennis at heart, to seriously consider the limitations which such a rule imposes upon your community, and to appeal for the tabling of an amendment at the next Annual General Meeting, in order that the League might use to the utmost the talents and willingness to serve, of every registered player irrespective of nationality, race, creed or club.

We want our League to be the best in the country. Surely this should not prove impossible if the best use is made of the material available. After all, election to the Management Committee should be a personal affair in which the integrity of the individual is the deciding factor. If the sponsors or clubs in General Meeting have the slightest doubt that an individual nominated will use the influence of his position to the furtherance of his own club's aims, then the answer is simple—just cast your votes for someone else.

But at least make the Management Committee a collection of the most progressive and capable members of the League, and not second-raters who secure election by default.

Yours sincerely,
Eric Caird.

P.S.—Let me hasten to add that nothing contained in the last paragraph should be construed as asserting that the Management Committee as at present constituted, is a collection of second-raters; the allusion is concerned with principles and not individuals.

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