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Vol. VIII

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No. 5

GIVE THEM GUIDANCE

WE have come to the end of yet another season and except for one regrettable feature no one can deny that it has been a good season; full of interest and, as is pointed out on other pages, finishing with two or three climaxes which have given it additional point.

Between now and the Annual General Meeting in May, it is up to the clubs to hold their own "inquests" and come to their own decisions in order that their representatives may be well briefed when they attend the A.G.M. We have made this point previously but would again underline it as it is a point of paramount importance.

The one feature which has, to some extent, marred the season has been the number of players who have been played in teams lower than they should have been, permissible under the letter of our rules simply because at the last Annual General Meeting it was decided to eliminate such restrictive rules. It is however, a matter of complete wonderment to us that while many other forms of sport do not appear to need to be surrounded with restrictive controls, table tennis does. That can be the only conclusion reached after the experience of this No-Rule season.

What seems to be even more illogical is the fact that the clubs who appear to want restrictive rules are those who have been the greatest sinners this season in regard to the composition of their teams. Their attitude appears to be one of "Give us rules and we will abide by them", but they seem to be quite unprepared to play the game more by its spirit than by the letter of the law. They have a curious fear of freedom.

There can be little doubt that this matter will be the most controversial one to come up before the A.G.M. It is hardly fair on club secretaries and other representatives to have to deal with it without some guidance and support from their own members. It is up to you to give it to them. It is your plain duty.

CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRIES UP

by John McKim

IT is a pleasure to start these notes with some good news for a change. The good news in this case is that there was an improvement in the entry for this season's Closed Championships.

This is in direct contrast to the present trend in table tennis. Perhaps the distribution of entry forms with the *Digest* helped. Let us hope it did for this method of distribution will be used for the Merseyside Open next season and we are hoping for a much larger local entry than we had last November.

While on the subject of good news, our Chairman, Mr. J. H. C. Hughes, is now making a good recovery after undergoing a lung operation in the Cleaver Hospital, Heswall. He has now returned to his home but unfortunately his full recovery will be delayed a little longer yet. I know I am on safe ground in wishing him on behalf of all members a speedy and complete return to health.

Further arrangements have been made regarding the Stamp Memorial Fund—the final list of donors to which are recorded on Page 9.

At the time of writing this the fund has been closed for six weeks

so that plenty of time has elapsed for any late arrivals to be taken into consideration, and the result is perhaps the most disgraceful effort for which the League has ever been responsible.

Out of a total membership of 52 clubs only 13—exactly one club in four—made any contribution to the fund. It is amazing how quickly 17 years' service as secretary and treasurer can be forgotten, and forgotten by some of the largest and longest serving clubs in the League. In fact, in the main the contributions from the League were from the small "unfashionable" clubs.

Fortunately many people outside Liverpool remember the work of Bill Stamp and we have a fund sufficient to proceed with the installation of the seat in Sefton General Hospital grounds. The balance will be used to provide book cases and books to equip a new quiet room now being installed in the hospital.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Deaf and Dumb Institute on Thursday, May 29. Full details will be forwarded to club secretaries later.

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Taylor's Triple Success

by J. D. Pattison

NOT for many years has one player so dominated the League's Closed Championships as was the case this season. The last time this happened was when Ron Rumjahn, of Rafters, carried off three of the championship titles—the men's singles, the men's doubles and the mixed doubles. Now Arthur Taylor, of Bath Street, has emulated him and some measure of just how worthy a champion he is may be gauged from the fact that not one of his opponents in the men's singles compelled him to concede a game.

This is the second time Taylor has made himself League champion. He did it previously in 1956 when he took the title from Les Davies, of Balfour, when the latter's sponge bat was proving more than opponents could cope with.

Taylor did not need a sponge bat on either occasion but this season he has undoubtedly shown that he not only has the stroke ability but the craft and guile to make that ability a telling force.

Great Asset

One of the great assets he has acquired is his spinning services and he uses it to great advantage. Indeed, it was a telling factor in his defeat of Norman Jones, of Balfour, in the final of the men's singles, and in gaining the mixed doubles title for himself and his clubmate partner, Miss Barbara Hardacre.

But the service was not the only superiority Taylor had over Jones. Both in defence and attack he was always the master, pretty well dictating the way the play should go, and although Jones played well enough in the first game to take his opponent to 17, from the moment they changed round he was always struggling against a player who appeared to have found his full confidence and could change his direction of attack at will. In this way he repeatedly caught Jones going the wrong way with brilliant aces.

There is no doubt that if Taylor can maintain this form, as he is

showing every possibility of doing, the question next season, and perhaps for a couple of seasons, will be whether anyone can stop him repeating his success.

The women's singles provided a much closer game. In fact, it developed into a battle of wits between Mrs. Kay Casselman (Rafters), the holder, and Mrs. Moya Jones (Bohemians). Mrs. Jones has been threatening to win the title for two or three seasons, but has always fallen by the wayside before reaching the final. Now she has fulfilled that threat but how near she came to failing at the last hurdle she would be the first to admit.

At the outset it appeared as if Mrs. Jones would be a fairly comfortable winner. She dominated the first game and scored many points with fine cross-the-table forehand drives which left Mrs. Casselman hopeless. Changing round she ran into a 12-8 lead and from that moment the tenor of the match changed.

While Mrs. Casselman played that sound defensive game of which she is so capable, Mrs. Jones began to falter and in a flash they were on level terms at 13-all. The holder then went ahead for the first time but it was a fight for every point and although Mrs. Jones was able to draw level at 20-all, she lost the next two points for the game.

The deciding game produced the greatest tension of the evening, both with the competitors and the audience. Mrs. Jones trailed for the most part, only to recover her length with her forehand drive in time to snatch victory from an opponent who had battled gamely all through.

Optimistic Pair

Before the start of the men's doubles final Bill Pierce and Peter Rumjahn were confident that they would be able to beat Taylor and Ron Rumjahn. I thought they were optimistic and events proved this to be the case.

SOME EARLY SHOCKS

The new partnership of Taylor and Ron can be a formidable one. Both have sound defence and can score devastating aces; both are agile and have a lengthy reach. To catch them out of position is a hard task. Pierce and Peter Rumjahn never looked like doing so, especially as neither of them produced the best they can and needed to do. As a result Taylor and Ron won in straight games.

If it did nothing else the final of the women's doubles added some light relief to the evening, thanks to Balfour's Miss Julie Roberts. For most of the match she did not appear to be conscious of how the game stood or what was happening, but that did not stop her giving a first-class display against two experienced campaigners with a long standing partnership like Mrs. K. Casselman and Mrs. L. Rumjahn.

Miss Roberts and Miss Eileen Mansell gave them a hard fight before eventually succumbing 21-19 in the third, and it was a pity that the match was momentarily marred by an umpiring error by Alec Gould, of Bath Street, when he allowed one of the Balfour players to serve out of turn and then called a let.

The twin sisters were the only people to retain their title for the Bohemians holders of the mixed doubles, Bernard Hand and Mrs. Jones, lost theirs to Taylor and Miss Hardacre in a threegame set in which Taylor completely baffled Mrs. Jones with his services, so much so that on one occasion, at a vital point, she was unable to return one of them.

In addition, Hand rarely found that touch of which he is capable while Miss Hardacre wisely contended herself in the main with keeping the ball going and leaving the point-winning to her partner.

Player of Promise

The junior singles final between R. Gunnion (Bootle Y.M.C.A.) and A. Read (Waterloo Park) was too one-sided to produce the equivalent of some previous finals. Read was never really able to extend Gunnion

but he showed himself capable of some finely judged shots and to be a player who could develop into a more than useful exponent.

The preliminary rounds at Dingle Vale Schools had been productive of a lot of good play and not a few surprises. Indeed, the championships had hardly got under way with the men's singles on the Tuesday night than we had the first shock—the defeat of Mal Wallace (Balfour) 21-19 21-4 by the Bohemians Geoff Baker.

Two matches stood out prominently that evening and both concerned Bernard Hand. He had a terrific battle with Les Mulholland (Balfour) before winning 18-21 21-16 22-20 and another great fight with Wally Allanson (Bootle Y.M.C.A.) which he finally lost 21-18 in the third.

Wednesday night brought another surprise in the 21-18 21-17 defeat of Ken Gaulton (Balfour) by Allan Taylor (Waterloo Park), but it was only one of the fine displays given by Taylor. None was better than that against Ron Rumjahn before being eliminated in the fifth round.

Surprising, too, was the collapse of Oakhill's Bill Harris in his second game of the quarter-final match with Ron Rumjahn. Up to that point Harris had been in tip-top form and had fought hard in the first game against Rumjahn.

Probably the outstanding features of the early rounds of the women's singles was the defeat of Julie Roberts (21-17 21-16) by Miss Thelma McCabe, and the marathon matches of Mrs. Myra Lovelady.

Miss Roberts contributed towards her own defeat by over-confidence, even after she had lost the first game.

Mrs. Lovelady's first marathon was against her clubmate, Mrs. L. Rumjahn, whom she beat 28-30 21-17 21-9. On top of this she had to meet Miss Reg Royle (Orrell) and the tussle between the two looked as if it would go on for ever, with both players taking few chances. Miss Royle's patience finally won 17-21 21-18 21-17.

Continued on page 10

FIRST MAJOR HONOUR

By J. McCaig

LINNETS romped home to an easy victory by eight sets to two over Bohemians in the final of the Readman Cup at the Balfour club.

To be honest this was probably the most one-sided final for some years, but on the other hand one must give credit to the Bohemians players for fighting hard, even after the match had been decided. Their captain, Ken Jones was an excellent example of never-say-die, and also employed good strategy in the early stages in an effort to keep the match alive for as long as possible.

The one thing which I could not understand about this match however, was why Frank Thomas decided to switch his playing order and retain only Pierce and Hobbs in their normal positions of Nos. 1 and 4 respectively. Davies played at No. 2 instead of 5, Roy Jones at No. 3 rather than at 2, while Thomas himself took the No. 5 berth in preference to his usual position at No. 3.

Panic Touch

With respect, considering Bohemians limited strength, one would have imagined that the Linnets captain, at the commencement of the match, would have had the utmost confidence that his team, played in its usual order, would be too strong for a Bohemians team, in whatever order it might be played. Personally I felt that there was a touch of panic about the Linnets move, but fortunately for them the switching did not boomerang.

In fact, only one of the ten sets was taken to three games, and only two sets could really be described as being closely contested. The first was between Eric Davies and Bernard Hand, which was played when the score stood at one set each. Davies played really well against an experienced opponent and was somewhat unfortunate to be beaten 21-18 21-18.

Strangely enough it was Hand again who was involved in the set

which provided the highlight of the match. This was his battle with Bill Pierce, which the latter eventually won by 21-14 18-21 21-15. It was a pity that either player had to be the loser, because there was much excellent, and at times, brilliant play on each side.

Decided Match

Pierce was devastating on both wings, his forehand kills particularly, being executed with tremendous power. Hand also rose to the occasion, and played probably as well as he has all season. Some of his retrieving of Pierce's attacking shots was truly remarkable, and had it not been for such a bad start in the first game when he trailed 2-14, there might well have been a different story.

The set more or less decided the match, giving Linnets a 3-2 lead, plus the necessary incentive to drive their advantage home, which, in fact, they did by taking the last five sets without undue difficulty.

Linnets' players were very cock-a-hoop at the finish, as also was Jim Green, who had a vastly different expression on his face from that when his team dropped two points to Balfour in their vital league match the previous week in the very same room, and so lost a golden opportunity of winning the league championship.

By winning the Readman Cup, Linnets gained their first major honour. The cup was presented to them by Mr. Albert Montgomery, vice-chairman of the League, in the absence of Mr. J. H. C. Hughes who was unable to be present due to illness.

The remainder of the individual results in the final were as follows (Linnets players named first):—

W. Pierce beat A. Rycroft 21-13 21-12; E. Davies beat K. Jones 21-8 21-18; R. Jones beat Rycroft 21-13 21-13, beat V. Chesham 21-16 21-19; D. Hobbs beat Jones 21-15 21-15, beat J. Holdsworth 21-12 21-11; F. Thomas beat Holdsworth 21-10 21-19, lost to Chesham 16-21 10-21.

Well Earned Cup Victory

By Eileen Mansell

CONGRATULATIONS to Cadwa on winning the Bartholomew Cup. It was a fine performance as last season saw them near the bottom of the first division.

That there was little between Cadwa and Balfour in the final is shown by the fact that Cadwa won by a game. All ten players were understandably keyed up and this had its effect on the play which was nothing like as good as both teams had shown in other matches.

Cadwa had altered their team order, playing Brenda Windsor at No. 1 and dropping Ivy Crafter to No. 4. Whether this was the deciding factor I would not like to say, for Cadwa had beaten Balfour the previous time they met with Brenda at No. 4.

Julie Roberts put Balfour into the lead by taking the first set from Brenda. Julie's forehand and backhand attack was working well and she took the first game 21-12. Erratic play in the next saw her trailing love-9 but she steadied up to level matters and finally clinch the game 22-20.

Captain's Part

Cadwa retaliated when Gloria Burns beat Muriel Cox 16 and 15, but the heroine of the match so far as Cadwa was concerned was their captain, Ivy Crafter, who played like a trojan against Joyce Randall, although she played into Ivy's hands by resorting to defence.

If Joyce had attacked more often I am sure she would have turned the tables. As it was she just lost 21-14 22-24 21-23. Ivy attacked consistently and although Joyce moved around well and her defence has improved this season, she is inclined to be too tensed up and often serves off the table—a fault

of which every member of both teams was guilty.

Julie Roberts squared matters for Balfour by beating Betty Black after losing the first game. Betty played well, especially in the third, but if she developed a defence she would find her game improve tremendously. Her forehand and backhand attack is good if a trifle erratic.

Gloria Burns played well against Olive Dickenson to gain a somewhat surprising two-straight win, but it must be said that Olive's display was below standard.

Doubles Shared

The doubles match between Ivy and Betty and Olive and Julie resulted in a win for Cadwa and a lead of 4-2, which Balfour promptly cut to a set when Muriel and Joyce beat Brenda and Gloria in the third. It was a lively match with some good rallies.

Balfour were now pressing hard and Olive went on to beat Brenda in straight games and so put her team level, but Ivy put herself on against Muriel to gain a comfortable 21-8 21-11 victory and put Cadwa in the lead again.

Only one set remained—Joyce Randall v Betty Black and Joyce knew she had to win two-straight to give Balfour victory. It was a fitting climax that it was the best match of the night, but Balfour's hopes vanished when Betty took the second game 16 although finally losing the set.

Everyone present was pleased to see our President, Mr. C. E. Bartholomew, there to present his cup once again, and especially glad to see him looking so well after having been in hospital over Christmas.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Balfour	22	19	1	2	164	56	40
Linnets	22	19	1	2	161	59	40
Rafters	22	16	3	3	143	77	35
L'pool Y.M.C.A.	22	12	7	3	119	101	27
Bootle Y.M.C.A.	22	9	8	5	117	103	23
Bohemians	22	8	10	4	101	119	20
Victoria Park	22	7	11	4	101	119	18
Bath Street	22	6	12	4	98	122	16
Balfour A	22	6	12	4	94	126	16
Oakhill	22	5	15	2	85	135	12
L'pool Y.M. A	22	3	14	5	78	142	11
Cadwa	22	3	19	0	59	161	6

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Anfield	22	21	0	1	174	46	43
Litherland	22	17	3	2	151	69	36
Lucem	22	14	7	1	115	105	29
Bootle Y.M. A	22	12	7	3	119	101	27
Waterloo Dock	22	10	6	6	118	102	26
Rafters A	22	8	9	5	104	114	21
Panto	22	5	11	6	100	120	16
Bohemians A	22	6	12	4	98	122	16
I.C.I.	22	6	12	4	85	135	16
Linnets A	22	6	15	1	88	130	13
Anfield A	22	5	14	3	87	133	13
Victoria Pk A	22	1	15	6	79	141	8

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Waterloo Park	20	20	0	0	162	38	40
Oakhill A	20	13	5	2	121	79	28
English Elec.	20	8	5	7	107	93	23
Litherland A	20	9	7	4	104	96	22
Everton Y.M.	20	7	7	6	96	104	20
Linacre	20	7	7	6	91	109	20
L.P.A.S.	20	8	9	3	100	100	19
Lofters	20	7	9	4	95	105	18
University	20	4	12	4	70	130	12
Cadwa A	20	3	13	4	75	125	10
Maghull	20	2	14	4	79	121	8

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Bootle Y.M. B	22	19	2	1	147	73	39
Wavertree	22	17	4	1	150	70	35
Rafters B	22	15	4	3	139	81	33
Beauchair	22	13	6	3	127	93	29
R.A.F.A.	22	11	7	4	127	93	26
Bath St. A	22	11	8	3	116	104	25
Warbreck	22	8	10	4	102	118	20
L'pool Y.M. B	22	6	11	5	106	114	17
Bohemians B	22	6	11	5	95	125	17
L.P.A.S. A	22	4	16	2	82	138	10
Aigburth	22	3	16	3	75	145	9
Panto A	22	1	19	2	54	166	4

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Victoria Pk B	22	18	3	1	147	73	37
Balfour B	22	14	4	4	155	65	32
Fairlawn	22	14	6	2	148	72	30
Waterloo Pk A	22	13	5	4	137	83	30
Harold House	22	10	4	8	123	97	28
Litherland B	22	13	7	2	120	100	28
Wavertree A	22	10	8	4	112	108	24
Victoria Pk C	22	6	13	3	84	136	15
Cadwa B	22	5	14	3	79	141	13
Anfield B	22	5	15	2	80	140	12
Oakhill B	22	3	14	5	73	147	11
Rafters C	22	1	19	2	62	158	4

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Sefton	18	16	0	2	145	35	34
Balfour C	18	12	2	4	124	56	28
Linnets B	18	12	3	3	124	56	27
Bootle Y.M. C	18	8	8	2	92	88	18
L'pool Y.M. C	18	8	9	1	68	112	17
Litherland C	18	6	9	3	79	101	15
Bath Street B	18	6	9	3	71	109	15
Bohemians C	18	3	10	5	74	106	11
Anfield C	18	2	12	4	58	122	8
Domestic Miss.	18	2	13	3	65	115	7

North Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Waterloo Dk A	22	20	0	2	165	55	42
Lofters A	22	18	3	1	155	65	37
Bootle Nalgo	22	16	5	1	155	65	33
Warbreck A	22	12	7	3	133	87	27
Co-op	22	12	8	2	119	101	26
English Elec. A	22	10	9	3	116	104	23
Waterloo Pk A	22	10	11	1	103	117	21
Bath Street C	22	10	12	0	107	113	20
Belling & Lee	22	7	13	2	107	113	16
R.A.F. Movs.	22	4	15	3	70	150	11
Maghull A	22	3	19	0	45	175	6
Tech Studs.	22	1	21	0	45	175	2

South Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Florence Oxtou	20	16	2	2	151	49	34
Lussac	20	14	4	2	131	69	30
Linnets C	20	14	4	2	120	80	30
Victoria Pk D	20	12	6	2	131	69	26
Old Xavs.	20	10	6	4	113	87	24
Beauchair A	20	7	7	6	104	96	20
Wavertree Lab.	20	7	9	4	98	102	18
Aigburth A	20	7	10	3	90	110	17
Beauchair B	20	5	15	0	72	128	10
Stanley House	20	4	15	1	55	145	9
Linnets D	20	1	19	0	35	165	2

LEAGUE TABLES

East Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Nalگو	22	20	1	1	178	42	41
Huntley & P. . .	22	19	2	1	168	52	39
West Derby . . .	22	17	4	1	155	65	35
L.P.A.S. B	22	15	6	1	137	83	31
Telecomms	22	12	8	2	121	99	26
Nalگو A	22	10	11	1	114	106	21
Crawfords	22	10	11	1	95	125	21
Fairlawn A	22	8	11	3	97	123	19
Stoneycroft	22	5	16	1	80	140	11
Huntley & P. A . .	22	5	17	0	65	155	10
Oakhill C	22	2	18	2	60	160	6
Albright & W. . .	22	1	19	2	50	170	4

Women's 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Balfour	22	18	1	3	170	50	39
Cadwa	22	18	1	3	166	54	39
Rafters	22	17	4	1	160	60	35
Bibbys	22	14	8	0	135	85	28
Linnets	22	12	6	4	130	90	28
Oakhill	22	11	8	3	119	101	25
Bohemians	22	10	8	4	113	107	24
Bath Street	22	8	13	1	101	119	17
African Oil	22	5	16	1	74	146	11
Domestic Miss. . .	22	4	17	1	57	163	9
Cadwa A	22	2	19	1	45	175	5
Waterloo Park . . .	22	1	19	2	50	170	4

Women's 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Orrell	18	18	0	0	170	10	36
Dunlop	18	14	4	0	123	57	28
Bohemians A . . .	18	13	3	2	113	67	28
Rafters A	18	10	5	3	101	79	23
Linnets A	18	7	9	2	81	99	16
Sefton	18	5	9	4	87	93	14
Bibbys A	18	7	11	0	75	105	14
Anfield A	18	3	13	2	48	132	8
Huntley & P. . . .	18	2	13	3	56	124	7
Anfield	18	3	15	0	46	134	6

STAMP MEMORIAL FUND

Although we announced the closing total in our last issue, we are pleased to say that several more contributions have since been received, bringing the total to date to £76/12/0.

For the major part of this increase we must thank the Lancashire and Cheshire Association who have been making their own effort in collecting subscriptions from their associated leagues.

Donations have been received from the following to whom we express our thanks:—

Anfield Club
Oakhill Club
Waterloo Park Club
Huntley & Palmer Club
Linnets Club
Liverpool Y.M.C.A. Club
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Nerves Played a Part

by J. McKim

THE final of the Rumjahn Cup appeared on paper to be cut and dried with Waterloo Park riding high at the top of Division 3 and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B halfway down the Fourth Division. The fact that Waterloo Park only won after a struggle by six sets to four, therefore requires some explanation.

The first reason was apparent—Waterloo Park played well below normal form and with the exception of their captain, Austin Hayden, every member of the team appeared to be very nervous.

The second reason was, I think, that the five players doing duty in the cup final were not the same five that had represented them in the majority of their league matches.

The match, though not producing table tennis of any great quality, did retain the interest of a fairly good audience to the last set, and although only four of the sets went to three games, five games finished at 21-19, three reached 20-all and one eventually finished 30-28.

Although neither captain was content to keep the card straight but called on games in an endeavour to obtain an advantage, they were not successful for only one game in the first half was won by the team which called it on.

Hayden gained the advantage after the interval, however, when he called on his No. 5, A. Reid, who proved a comfortable 21-6 21-14 winner over D. Power, Y.M.'s No. 5, to give his side a 4-2 lead.

The next set was vital if Y.M. were to stay in the match and A. Roberts chose correctly when F. Harding beat D. Henwood 21-17 21-14.

Park then called on their No. 1, Ken Readitt, against C. Cooper, and we saw the best set of the evening. Readitt on form should have won comfortably but after having nine game points in the first eventually lost it 28-30. He scraped through the second at 19 and then showed a flash of the form expected from the No. 1 of the leading club in Division 3 to take the third 21-5.

His victory virtually finished the match for Y.M. had to win the two remaining sets in straight games to even qualify for a count of points. Hayden, however, avoided the necessity of this by beating Poulter 21-19 21-12.

One outstanding feature of the match was that nine out of ten of the players appeared unable to play a half volley—every ball had to be smashed or chopped back from the back of the room. The exception was Roberts, the Y.M. captain. He had a half volley all right but unfortunately little else.

His first set in particular, was a battle of patience, and Henwood stayed the pace better and enlivened the proceedings with an occasional backhand flick to win 14-21 21-10 21-11.

Continued from page 5

The Litherland brothers Ken and Eric Anderson undoubtedly provided the feature of the men's doubles on Friday evening. They put up two great winning fights to eliminate Killip and Shaw and Butterworth and Allanson and in the semi-final made the eventual winners, Rumjahn and Taylor, fight hard to overcome them.

Final results:

Men's Singles, semi-final—A. R. Taylor beat F. Allanson 21-11 21-14; N. R. Jones beat R. Rumjahn 19-21 22-20 21-18. Final—Taylor beat Jones 21-17 21-9.

Women's Singles, final—Mrs. M. Jones beat Mrs. K. Casselman 21-13 20-22 21-19.

Junior Singles, final—R. Gunnion beat A. Read 21-14 21-14.

Men's Doubles, final—Taylor and R. Rumjahn beat W. Pierce and P. Rumjahn 21-14 21-18.

Women's Doubles, final—Mrs. K. Casselman and Mrs. L. Rumjahn beat Miss E. Mansell and Miss J. Roberts 21-17, 21-23 21-19.

Mixed Doubles, final—Taylor and Miss B. Hardacre beat B. Hand and Mrs. Jones 21-15, 11-21, 21-15.

CAPTAINCY WAS AT FAULT

by Joe Ellison

VICTORIA PARK D lost whatever chance they had of winning the Hyde Cup by poor captaincy in the final. George Cope, their captain, must shoulder the bulk of the blame for his team's 6-4 defeat by Florence Oxton, for he did not use his men aright.

It ought to have been obvious to a man of Cope's experience that the thing to do in a cup match is to chalk up your wins as quickly as possible. This he failed to do with the result that Florence Oxton virtually strolled to a 6-1 lead and the retention of the cup—the first time it has been won by the same club two years in succession.

Jones gave the Park the lead by taking the first set from McCarten. He might just as easily have lost it for after winning the first game 21-19, he gained a comfortable 15-8 lead in the second, then indulged in some wild hitting which allowed his opponent to level at 17-all and, with the aid of an edge and the net, go into a 19-18 lead. Dame Fortune, however, smiled again on Jones, for a streaky edge, a net cord and a good shot put him safely home.

Then began Eddie Cameron's cup of bitterness. Cope called on Isterling only to see him lose 12 and 9 and so miss the chance of going two up. Isterling fell into the error of lifting every ball high above the net, leaving Cook with little to do beyond hit it hard down either side of the table.

Oxton's skipper, Crawley, was quick to seize his chance and called on Eddie Moran, their No. 1 and one of the strongest players in the region, to play Price. It gave them the lead for Moran, with consistent hitting, always had the Park player struggling.

In the next set Cope found himself unable to thrust home the advantage he gained over Mansfield. After losing a scrappy first game 17-21, Cope improved to take the second. He gave the impression

that he would run away with the set when he went into a 14-7 lead in the third, but he tried all sorts of funny shots against a player quick to realise when an opponent thinks he has won. Mansfield proceeded to quietly win his points to level at 17-all and finally take four of the last five points.

So Oxton were 3-1 up and the next game at first suggested that Isterling had not learned his lesson from his first set for against Reeves he proceeded to lift the ball high for Reeves to hit his way to 21-17. The Park player, however, apparently realised his mistake for he kept the ball lower in the next and by varying his length caused Reeves to lose his touch and the game to 16.

Park's hopes thus raised were soon to be dashed, for Reeves went into a lead in the third and held on to it throughout, helped again by some high returns by Isterling.

The holders position became practically unassailable when Mansfield completed his double with a comparatively easy win, 13 and 16, over Hughes.

Cope played with such little spirit in the first game against Moran that the latter was able to hit his way through it. He then made the mistake of easing up which cost him the second, but pulled himself together in the third and played sufficiently well to take it 21-18 and so keep the cup in Mill Street.

The three remaining sets were of little importance. Victoria Park took all three against Oxton players still keen enough to make them go all the way.

I regret to say that I was not at all impressed with the turn-out of some of the players. Surely with table tennis one of the cheapest of sports to play, those taking part could afford to play in a uniform shirt. I was particularly surprised to see braces and collar and ties appearing in a cup final.

SEASON'S LEADING AVERAGES

WE are once again indebted to Dr. Des. and Mrs. Elizabeth Loughrey and Mr. W. Bent for compiling the season's averages. They include all League and Cup matches, with the qualification that 20 sets must have been played. Players whose names are in bold type played at least 75 per cent of their sets at Nos. 1 or 2.

Division 1				Division 4			
	P	W	%		P	W	%
Taylor (Bath Street) . . .	46	45	97.82	Smith (R.A.F.A.)	46	43	93.47
Hobbs (Linnets)	54	49	90.74	Cairns (Bootle Y.M. B)	28	24	85.71
Hetherington (Bal & A)	48	43	89.58	Bent (Bath St. A)	40	34	85.00
R. Rumjahn (Rafters) . . .	50	42	84.00	McMullan (Rafters B) . . .	46	38	82.60
Thomas (Linnets)	56	47	83.92	Marsden (Rafters B)	42	34	80.95
Pierce (Linnets)	44	35	79.54	Tarr (Wavertree)	52	41	78.84
P. Rumjahn (Rafters) . . .	50	39	78.00	Travis (Wavertree)	50	39	78.00
N. Jones (Balfour)	42	32	76.19	Harold (Beauclair)	48	37	77.08
Mulholland (Balf & A)	50	38	76.00	Craig (Bootle Y.M. B)	44	33	75.00
Chesham (Bohemians) . . .	52	37	71.15	Robinson (R.A.F.A.)	46	34	73.91
Cain (Liverpool Y.M.) . . .	48	33	68.75	Looker (Wavertree)	38	28	73.68
Ferguson (Rafters)	44	30	68.18	Weston (Beauclair)	46	33	71.73
Hand (Bohemians)	50	34	68.00	Richmond (Lpl. Y.M. B)	28	20	71.42
Jones (Linnets)	56	38	67.85	Hughes (Btle Y.M. B) . . .	44	31	70.45
Davies (Balfour)	48	32	66.66	Kilshaw (Warbreck M)	44	31	70.45
				Keating (Btle Y.M. B)	44	30	68.18
Division 2				Division 5			
	P	W	%		P	W	%
Seddon (Wat. Dock)	46	41	89.13	Jacobs (Harold H)	48	43	89.58
Barnes (Anf. & A)	44	39	88.63	Taylor (Wat. Pk. A)	26	23	88.46
Oakes (Anfield)	28	24	85.71	Carter (Fairlawn)	40	33	82.50
Lawson (Anfield)	46	39	84.78	Evans (Balfour B)	46	37	80.43
Clayton (Litherland)	46	35	76.08	Rose (Vic. Pk. B)	38	30	78.94
Mason (Panto)	48	36	75.00	Sanders (Fairlawn)	44	33	75.00
Chew (Litherland)	44	33	75.00	Snyder (Harold H)	50	36	72.00
Brierley (Anf. & A)	50	37	74.00	Cohen (Vic. Pk. B & C)	48	34	70.83
Davies (Lucem)	44	32	72.72	Randall (Balf. B)	24	17	70.83
Gallagher (Rafters A)	24	17	70.83	Partington (Fairlawn)	46	32	69.56
E. Anderson (Lith.)	46	32	69.56	Martinez (Wavertree A)	42	29	69.04
J. Rimmer (Lucem)	48	33	68.75	Mooney (Wavertree A)	32	22	68.75
Williams (Btle Y.M. A)	48	33	68.75	Lott (Lithland B)	22	15	68.18
Killip (Litherland)	34	23	67.64	Bradley (Vic. Pk. B)	50	34	68.00
Fay (Anfield)	24	16	66.66	Dickenson (Balfour B)	50	33	66.00
Johnston (Anf. & A)	42	28	66.66				
Division 3				Division 6			
	P	W	%		P	W	%
Reid (Wat. Park)	50	46	92.00	Douglas (Sefton G)	38	36	94.73
Ellis (University)	20	17	85.00	Burge (Sefton G)	26	23	88.46
Jones (University)	26	22	84.61	Underhill (Linnets B)	34	30	88.23
Smith (Oakhill A)	40	33	82.50	Gaul (Linnets B)	20	17	85.00
Reed (Oakhill A)	26	21	80.76	K. Anderson (Lith. C)	22	18	81.81
Turtle (Everton Y.M.)	38	30	78.94	Kettle (Sefton G)	34	27	79.41
Henwood (Wat. Park)	48	37	77.08	Cox (Balfour C)	32	25	78.12
Gadd (L.P.A.S.)	38	28	73.68	Poulter (Lpl. Y.M. C)	24	18	75.00
Hayden (Wat. Park)	52	38	73.07	Ainsworth (Lith. C)	38	28	73.68
Spencer (Wat. Park)	52	37	71.15	McKechnie (Sefton G)	36	26	72.22
B. Waterson (Lofters)	24	17	70.83	Shorrocks (Bath St. B)	24	17	70.83
Grant (Oakhill A)	26	18	69.23	Ireland (Linnets B)	24	17	70.83
Smitton (Eng. Electric)	38	26	68.42	Biggs (Balfour C)	26	18	69.23
Readitt (Wat. Park)	50	34	68.00	Davies (Sefton G)	36	24	66.66
Askew (Lofters)	46	31	67.39				
Malley (Litherland A)	42	28	66.66				

LEADING AVERAGES continued

North Region

	P	W	%
Alcock (Wat. Dk. A)	24	22	91.66
Wilkinson (Lofters A)	44	37	84.09
Spiers (Bootle Nalگو)	34	27	79.41
Tudor (Bootle Nalگو)	42	33	78.57
Day (Lofters A)	46	36	78.26
Millin (Waterloo Dk A)	36	28	77.77
Russell (Wat. Dk. A)	26	20	76.92
Reynolds (War. M. A)	40	30	75.00
Harper (Bell & L)	42	31	73.80
McMorran (Btle Nalگو)	38	28	73.68
Beresford (W. Dk. A)	34	25	73.52
Brimble (War. A)	22	16	72.72
Cantwell (Bell)	42	30	71.42
Shaw (Co-op)	42	30	71.42
Davies (English Elec.)	34	23	67.64
Cartwright (Btle Nalگو)	40	27	67.50
Crank (Co-op)	48	32	66.66

South Region

	P	W	%
Moran (Fl. Oxton)	48	48	100.00
Lynn (Stanley H)	20	17	85.00
Price (Vic. Pk. D)	38	32	84.21
Mansfield (Fl. Oxton)	46	38	82.60
McCarten (Fl. Oxton)	44	36	81.81
Smith (Old Xavs)	36	29	80.55
Reeves (Fl. Oxton)	42	33	78.57
Jones (Vic. Pk. D)	44	33	75.00
Malabar (Vic. Pk. D)	30	22	73.33
Hambleton (Wav. Lab.)	40	29	72.50
H. Holmes (Lussac)	38	27	71.05
Armson (Wav. Lab.)	24	17	70.83
W. Holmes (Lussac)	40	27	67.50
Kelly (Old Xavs)	40	27	67.50
Cope (Vic. Pk. D)	50	33	66.00
Dutch (Linnets C & D)	44	29	65.90

East Region

	P	W	%
Jones (Oakhill C)	36	34	94.44
Gaskell (H. & P.)	48	42	87.50
Hill (West Derby)	38	32	84.21
Mellor (Nalگو A)	52	43	82.69
Houghton (Nalگو A)	40	33	82.50
Thompson (Nalگو A)	44	36	81.81
Jones (H. & P.)	40	32	80.00
Lambert (West Derby)	44	35	79.54
Southern (Telecomms)	24	19	79.16
French (West Derby)	48	37	77.08
Campbell (H. & P.)	48	35	72.91
Hughes (West Derby)	48	35	72.91
Kirk (Nalگو & A)	52	37	71.15
Harper (Nalگو & A)	52	37	71.15
Gard (West Derby)	34	24	70.58
Waredale (L.P.A.S. B)	42	29	69.04

Ladies 1

	P	W	%
Roberts (Balfour)	50	47	94.00
Reynolds	38	34	89.47
Crafter (Cadwa)	54	48	88.88
Dickenson (Balfour)	52	46	88.46
Moore (Oakhill)	32	27	84.37
Lovelady (Rafters)	44	37	84.09
Royle (Bibbys)	42	33	78.57
Loughrey (Rafters)	28	22	78.57
Burns (Cadwa)	54	42	77.77
Windsor (Cadwa & A)	52	39	75.00
Black (Cadwa)	54	39	72.22
Tomkinson (Bohs)	50	34	68.00
Jones (Balfour)	26	17	65.38
Clague (Bibbys)	48	31	64.58
Robinson (Oakhill)	42	27	64.28
McCabe (AOM)	44	28	63.63
Wynne (Linnets)	44	28	63.63
Cox (Balfour)	48	29	60.41
McMullen (Rafters)	42	25	59.52
Gray (Bohemians)	46	27	58.69

Doubles

Loughrey & McMullen	13	10	76.92
Robinson & Allan	21	16	76.19
Royle & Clague	20	15	75.00
Lovelady & Reynolds	19	14	73.68
Burns & Windsor	24	17	70.83

Ladies 2

	P	W	%
Upton (Orrell)	34	33	97.05
Finnetty (Orrell)	36	33	91.66
Jenkins (Orrell)	34	30	88.23
Bray (Orrell)	30	26	86.66
Lacey (Orrell)	34	29	85.29
Payne (Dunlop)	34	28	84.35
Green (Sefton G)	38	30	78.94
Evans (Rafters A)	36	27	75.00
Adamson (Bohs. A)	38	28	73.68
Garner (Sefton G)	34	25	73.52
Connolly (Dunlop)	32	21	65.62
Cassidy (Bohs. A)	36	22	61.11
Langan (Bohemians A)	36	22	61.11
Rowan (Dunlop)	36	21	58.33
Spence (Dunlop)	34	19	55.88
Churchill (Linnets A)	34	19	55.88
Hobbs (Linnets A)	30	16	53.33
Mith (Bibbys A)	30	16	53.33
Porter (Bibbys A)	32	17	53.12

Doubles

Jenkins & Upton	12	12	100.00
Finnetty & Lacey	15	14	93.33
Spence & Rowan	17	14	82.35
Langan & Adamson	18	13	72.22
Rider & Patterson	18	13	72.22

Double for Balfour

SURELY never in the history of the League have we had such a finish to a season as we have seen this term. Not only have both the men's and the women's championships been won by a narrow margin of sets, but there have been several good fights to avoid relegation.

It would not be unfair to Balfour to say that they were somewhat lucky to have taken the two championships. For most of the season the men trailed behind Linnets and it was only when the latter were held to a draw by Rafters that Balfour were able to seize their chance.

It was to their credit that they took it in no uncertain manner when the two clubs met in the penultimate match of the season. The real surprise was that in the final game they allowed themselves to be beaten 7-3 by Rafters, well-knowing that Linnets would be all out for the biggest win they could get over Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A.

Despite the fact that the Lark Lane players won 10-0 Balfour took the championship by three sets.

Balfour's women, however, made sure that they would not emulate the mistake made by their men's team when they found themselves running neck and neck with Cadwa, but with the better sets advantage.

Won Both

In the final week both teams had two matches to play and curiously enough both had to play Oakhill. Balfour won their two 10-0 and 7-3 and Cadwa theirs by 9-1—against their own A team—and 8-2, so that the Smithdown Road team took the championship by four sets.

What of the fights to save status. Undoubtedly the outstanding ones were those by Oakhill, Linnets A and Police A.

With relegation facing them in the face for practically the whole season, Oakhill pulled one right out of the bag in their final game when

they beat Victoria Park on the Park's own table 6-4. It was just enough to put them a point above Liverpool Y.M.C.A., whose stay with Cadwa in the first division had lasted for only one season.

Linnets A made their position safe by two good wins in their last three matches. They first beat Victoria Park A 6-4, which virtually meant the descent of the Park, and then got an even better win by defeating Lucem 8-2.

Saving Help

The retention of the Fourth Division status by Police A was as much due to the defeat of Aigburth at the hands of Bath Street A as to their efforts in gaining a point in their final match with R.A.F.A. The combined result was that Police finished with one point more than Aigburth, who are thus companions in distress with Panto A.

Probably the most outstanding performance of the season has been that of Orrell in the women's second division. They have undoubtedly shown that their knowledge of their strength was better than that of the Management Committee for before the start of the season they asked to be placed in Division 1. By putting them in the second division the committee allowed them to run away with it.

Even greater confirmation of Orrell's potentialities was their performance in the Bartholomew Cup when they were only beaten by a point by Cadwa, the eventual winners.

Incidentally, that fact has again raised the controversy over cup finals and semi-finals, many people feeling that the rule which applies to the earlier rounds should also apply to the last two ties.

Against that, of course, is the always irrefutable argument that the conditions are the same for both teams. And there is always the question of difficulties in arranging venues.

FINE EXAMPLE TO ALL

ONE club who should be congratulated is Florence Oxton, who has finally attained their ambition of gaining promotion from the South Region after two near misses.

With only seven registered players they have a club spirit which is an example to all. Never once have they played short; never have they attempted to cancel a match despite the fact that towards the end of the season one of their key men was put on shift work which greatly restricted his availability.

To have won the South Region and to have set up a league record by winning the Hyde Cup for a

second time in succession is a feat worthy of the highest praise. They may find divisional play much tougher but that factor is not likely to dishearten them at all.

It is a curious coincidence that after having had two teams in the second division this season, next term Anfield will have none, for while their first team were easy winners of the division and have thus made a quick return to the premier sphere, their A team go down with Victoria Park A.

The fact that they finished the season with a surprisingly good 6-4 win over Bootle Y.M.C.A. A almost seems to have been wasted.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

Division 2 South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool . . .	7	6	1	0	56	14	13
Wirral . . .	7	5	0	2	44	26	10
Liverpool A . . .	7	4	1	2	44	26	9
Chester . . .	7	4	0	3	34	36	8
Wigan . . .	7	3	1	3	35	35	7
St. Helens . . .	7	2	1	4	27	43	5
Wirral A . . .	7	2	0	5	25	45	4
Crewe	7	0	0	7	15	55	0

Ladies Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester . . .	4	4	0	0	39	9	8
Blackpool . . .	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Liverpool . . .	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Wirral	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Bury	4	0	0	4	11	29	0

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