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LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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Editor: **J. D. Pattison**
J. C. McKim, A. Montgomery

Vol. IX

NOVEMBER, 1958

No. 1

THE END OF AN ERA

FOR the second season in succession we are compelled to open our editorial on a sad note. Last year we had to record the death during the closed season of Mr. Bill Stamp, our former organising secretary and treasurer; this year we have seen the passing of Mr. Jack Hughes, our former chairman, and by those two deaths has been closed a notable era in the history of our league.

For many years the two had been unceasing workers for the good of table tennis in general and the Liverpool League in particular. Vastly different in character and approach, they had nevertheless succeeded in working in close harmony throughout the years.

In Mr. Hughes the league possessed a man who held strong opinions on sportsmanship and who never feared to express those views; so much so that even those who disagreed with him had to admit the sincerity of his feelings. As a counsellor he was wise in his judgments and forthright in expressing his views. He had done invaluable work as a "backroom boy"; willing at all times to devote his time and energy—even when his health was not as good as it might have been—for the good of the league and the game.

No official or player of the league could have more deserved the honour of having the first Stamp Award of Merit conferred upon him than Jack Hughes and it must be the great regret of all who knew and worked with him that he lived only a few months to enjoy that honour. He proved himself to be the Man of the Hour on the death of Mr. Stamp, for he picked up the trailing reins and so kept the league running smoothly along its successful road.

For both him and Bill Stamp the Liverpool league will be a living memorial and we would appeal to all officials and players alike to keep it worthy of their name; to make it stand for something fine in the world of sport; indeed, a league of which we can all be proud.

IS THE "OPEN" NECESSARY?

by John McKim

IN an attempt to stimulate interest in the Merseyside Open Championships and to make sure that every registered player received an entry form, the Management Committee this year decided to post entry forms direct to each player in the league instead of depending upon club secretaries to distribute them, as had been done in past years.

The result must surely make the Management Committee consider whether the tournament is really necessary, or is required by the Liverpool League players.

There are nearly 800 registered players in our league, but only a total of 82 entered for this year's championships. On the closing date only 66 entries had been received from members of our league for the men's singles, and these included three junior players, and only 17 had been received for the women's singles.

From an interest point of view let me detail the clubs from which the entries were received.

For the Men's Singles: Anfield 3; Bath Street 3; Bootle Y.M.C.A. 9; Bohemians 5; Balfour 12; Cadwa 3 (juniors); Everton Y.M.C.A. 1; Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 9; Linnets 3; Litherland 2; Oakhill 3; Rafters 1; Victoria Park 10; Waterloo Park 1.

For the Women's Singles: Balfour 4, Bohemians 1, Bath Street 1, Bibbys 1, Cadwa 2, Orrell 3, Oakhill 1, Rafters 2, Stoneycroft 1.

It is a striking point of interest that the largest club entry for the Women's Singles came not from one of our own Clubs but from one belonging to another league—namely Union Marine in the Business Houses, who entered six players.

To the figures I have already quoted let me add those from clubs outside our organisation but who are within a 20 miles radius and therefore, by the rules, not eligible for exemption until Saturday. They are:

Men's Singles: Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. 5, Homecroft 4, Halton View Conservatives 4, Runcorn 2, Business Houses 1, R.A.F.A. (Wirral League) 1.

Women's Singles, additional to Union Marine: Birkenhead YMCA 2, Widnes 2.

In view of these figures is it any wonder that I say that the Management Committee will have to seriously consider the whole question of the Merseyside Open.

If any member of the league can give a good reason for this lack of interest, I am sure the Management Committee will be pleased to hear it. But whatever the reason, the lack of interest undoubtedly undermines the enthusiasm of those officials who put in a deal of hard work in preparing for and running the tournament.

See handbook changes on Page 10

Success and Defeat

THE League has been, perhaps, a little ambitious this season by entering no less than five teams in the Lancashire and Cheshire League—two men's, two women's and a junior side.

This decision should, I think, give encouragement to a number of players who may have felt that their chances of ever representing the City were, to say the least of it, remote.

Before progressing further, I want to repeat my request of last season to all members of the League, but more particularly to Club secretaries. Please let me know of any player who is considered to have real prospect. Any such cases will be looked into without delay.

The season has opened with a fair amount of success, with all teams excepting the juniors having played one match.

The men's first team, represented by A. C. Taylor, N. R. Jones and R. M. Rumjahn, made a good start by registering a 7-2 victory at Chester in the first round of the Wilmott Cup competition. This was expected, but round two will almost certainly provide sterner opposition. Before then, however, the first team play Manchester away on November 18, and this will surely be the toughest battle since we were last in Division One.

Passing on to the women's first team, they unfortunately made their exit from the J.M. Rose Bowl competition in the first round—this for the second successive year.

Blackpool were our opponents and they emerged worthy winners after a most interesting match, by 6 sets to 3. The game was played at Balfour Club, and Miss E. Mansell, Mrs. M. Jones and Miss J. Roberts represented Liverpool.

Miss Mansell played under the handicap of lumbago, and also the after effects of an accident two days previously which prevented her displaying the form of which we know she is capable. Miss Roberts apart from appearing rather nervous, failed to settle down

to her normal game against experienced opponents.

The bright spot of the evening from a Liverpool point of view was the splendid play of Mrs. Jones, who won both her singles events in convincing fashion, and also a doubles event in company with Miss Mansell.

My opinion is that Mrs. Jones has improved her game quite a bit since last season. She possesses a powerful forehand drive which is I think so important to women's play, although the backhand flick with which she won the set against Miss K. Benson at 20-19 in the second game, via the net cord and table edge, deserved to succeed for its audacity alone.

Apart from the match itself, it was gratifying to see so many spectators at an inter-city match. This created an atmosphere absent from such matches for so long.

By contrast however, the men's A team comprising L. Mulholland, W. Harris and W. Allanson played a 5-5 draw with Wirral A at the Florence Oxtun Club to a mere three spectators, all of whom were officials.

The point which stood out in this match was the grand form of Les Mulholland, who won all his three sets. In a most exhilarating set against Griffiths, of Wirral, I witnessed some of the finest retrieving by a Liverpool player for many a long day. It really was extraordinary, and to report that Mulholland won 21-11 in the third game, does Griffiths scant justice for some grand attacking play.

Here are a few matches to be played in the near future:—

Men's A v Wirral, Saturday, November 22, at Birkenhead Y.M.C.A.

Men's 1st v Stockport, Friday, November 28, at Waterloo Dock.

Men's A v St. Helens, Friday, November 28, at Bohemians.

Ladies' 1st v Blackpool, Friday, December 5th, at Balfour.

Ladies' A v Oldham, Friday, December 5, at Oakhill.

TARGET AT WHICH TO AIM

by Jack Pattison

FOR the first time for many years the Liverpool League has entered a team in the youth division of the Lancashire and Cheshire League. It is something of an experimental move but one which we hope will prove to be of great value.

One of the objects behind the idea is to train and encourage the young players in the league—to give them something at which they can aim, namely the honour of representing Liverpool.

Just how our young players are likely to fare in the inter-city matches is something of a mystery, but while I hope they can give as good as they receive, I think I can honestly say that I and the other officials of the league are less concerned with victories and points than we are with developing our young players.

By the time these notes appear in print our youngsters will have played their first match—against Bolton at Beauclair. Considering the known ability of some of the young Bolton players the match is bound to have been a stiff task for our chosen three—namely Derek Craig, Peter Keating and John Ball, all members of Bootle Y.M.C.A.

The three were selected after trials had been held at the Rafter's Club. Twelve players were invited to attend but two of them could not do so and the ten who took part were the chosen three plus Malcolm Coltman, Chris Coveney and Edward Briscoe (Liverpool YMCA), Ken Chambers (Balfour), Robert Eden (Cadwa), and Norman Be'linson and Leon Schamis (Harold House).

The evening provided some very interesting play and gave the members of the Selection Committee present some idea of the potential available. The unfortunate thing is that we have not as many inter-city games as we would like in which to see how some of the other players not chosen for the Bolton match, would react to such events.

And here is where I would appeal to some of the older members of the league for their help. If you have promising young talent in your club, do encourage it. Give them the practise they really need and encourage them to try and strengthen their weaker points. But, for heaven's sake, don't be bossy in doing that. Youngsters don't take kindly to such attitudes.

An appeal also to club secretaries. I cannot possibly keep track of every promising young player, although I intend to get round to see as many as I can. Therefore, if you have a young player whom you feel deserves recognition, let me know at once. Remember it is in the young players that the future success of the league lies.

I am hoping that we will have had quite a few supporters present to give our young players a good send-off in the game against Bolton. Our other three matches this year are: Blackpool away on November 22; Macclesfield at home on December 1; and Stockport away on December 10.

The venue for the Macclesfield match will be announced in the Press later and I appeal to all the young players in the league to support it.

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LIVERPOOL 1

Taylor In Top Form

By Joe Ellison

LIVERPOOL champion, A. C. Taylor, showed that he is going to take a lot of stopping if he is not to retain the men's singles title for a second successive season, in the first division match between Rafters and Bath Street.

Though Bath Street went down by 6 sets to 4, it was they who provided much of the interest of the match. In addition to the spectacular table tennis of Taylor, the Street turned out for the first time their new signing, W. Allanson, formerly of Bootle Y.M.C.A.. There is little doubt that he has strengthened the team considerably.

THE first set of the match brought D. Ferguson (Rafters) and Allanson together. Allanson, with some useful hitting, got away to a good lead and then for some reason—possibly nerves as it was his first Bath Street appearance—started to “fiddle” about. Ferguson was not slow to take advantage of this and drew level at 13-13. He then produced some remarkably hard drives and streaked into an 18-14 lead. Only Allanson's dogged defence enabled him to pull up to 19-19, but he could not save the game and Ferguson won 21-19.

The second game was a repetition of the first, Allanson building up a lead with first class shots, then throwing it away to such an extent that Ferguson went ahead to 20-15. Once again Allanson produced brilliant defensive play to level at deuce, but Ferguson won the set at 27-25 after the two deciding points had fluctuated in favour of both players.

Peter Rumjahn proved too strong for Joe Delamere and won rather easily 21-10 21-12, and then came, for me, the highlight of the match—the meeting of Taylor and Ron Rumjahn.

From the first point Taylor was the complete master. All his attacking shots were hit hard and either placed three inches from the end of the table or directly down the table edges. His constant attack produced some fine defensive play from Rumjahn, but his accuracy made him unbeatable.

If this was a forerunner of the form we can expect from Taylor this season, I cannot see anybody

in Liverpool taking his title away from him. But so well did both contestants play in this match that I was encouraged to think that Liverpool would do well in the Wilmott Cup and the Lancashire and Cheshire League.

The fourth set was a very ordinary affair by comparison and resulted in a three game match between C. Casselman (Rafters) and A. Gould which Gould won 24-22 in the third to level the match score at two all.

Rafters surged ahead once again when J. McCaig had little difficulty in beating G. Aspinall, and proving once again that attack is the best form of defence. Aspinall was so busy trying to stop McCaig from hitting, that he had no time to attack himself.

Rafters went to 4-2 through Ferguson's defeat of Gould, in which he showed how to beat an attacking penholder. His answer was top spin, allied with the occasional back-hand flick. Ferguson is already a better player than some give him credit for and with a little more steadiness he would be in the top flight.

Taylor's second set of the match brought him up against Peter Rumjahn, whom he beat in form comfortable fashion 21-9, 21-15, but the eighth set produced the unexpected and showed what an unpredictable player Allanson can be.

His opponent was Ron Rumjahn. Both played a cut and thrust type of game, alternating from attack to defence; both produced brilliant shots and both played the occasional loose ball.

The first game went to Allanson 21-19 after Rumjahn had held a good lead throughout. Rumjahn took the second game and in the decider first one and then the other gained the advantage only to lose it through silly shots which players of their calibre should not produce. Eventually a grand burst of hitting got Allanson home 22-20.

The last two sets went to Rafters to give them a 6-4 win. McCaig beat Delamere 21-14 in the third, and Casselman beat Aspinall 21-18, 21-16.

LEAGUE TABLES

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
14 Balfour	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
12 Rafter's	5	4	0	1	34	16	9
13 Liverpool Y.M.	5	4	1	0	35	15	8
11 Linnetts	5	4	1	0	34	16	8
9 Bootle Y.M.	5	4	1	0	30	20	8
7 Bohemians	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
7 Victoria Park	5	3	2	0	29	21	6
8 Anfield	5	2	3	0	24	26	4
8 Bath Street	5	0	5	0	15	35	0
2 Litherland	5	0	5	0	11	39	0
0 Balfour A	5	0	5	0	10	40	0
0 Oakhill	5	0	5	0	8	42	0

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
12 L'pool Y.M. A	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
12 Waterloo Park	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
12 Bootle Y.M. A	5	4	1	0	33	17	8
9 Rafter's A	5	3	2	0	33	17	6
6 Bohemians A	5	3	2	0	23	27	6
5 Lucern	5	2	2	1	23	27	5
4 I.C.I.	5	1	2	2	25	25	4
4 Waterloo Dock	5	1	3	1	22	28	3
3 Cadwa	4	0	2	2	15	25	2
3 Linnetts A	5	0	3	2	15	35	2
3 Oakhill A	5	0	3	2	14	36	2
1 English Elec.	4	0	4	0	6	34	0

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
14 Victoria Pk A	5	5	0	0	44	6	10
14 Anfield A	5	5	0	0	42	8	10
10 Beaulair	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
9 R.A.F.A.	5	3	2	0	29	21	6
8 Bath Street A	5	2	2	1	30	20	5
8 Bootle Y.M. B	5	2	2	1	28	28	5
4 Litherland A	5	1	2	2	26	24	4
4 Linacre	5	2	3	0	19	31	4
5 Rafter's B	5	1	3	1	17	33	3
2 Cadwa A	5	1	4	0	12	38	2
1 L.P.A.S.	5	1	3	1	20	30	1
2 Everton Y.M.	5	0	4	1	12	38	1

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
14 Balfour B	5	4	1	0	34	16	8
12 Victoria Pk B	5	4	1	0	34	16	8
12 Fairlawn	5	3	0	2	30	20	8
Litherland B	5	4	1	0	27	23	8
Waterloo Pk A	4	3	1	0	26	14	6
Wrbrck Moor	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
L'pool Y.M. B	5	2	3	0	25	25	4
Bohemians B	5	2	3	0	24	26	4
Harold House	5	1	4	0	19	31	2
Aigburth	5	1	4	0	11	39	2
University	3	0	2	1	12	18	1
L.P.A.S. A	5	0	5	0	15	35	0

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour C	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Linnetts B	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Sefton	5	4	1	0	34	16	8
Bootle Y.M. C	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Victoria Pk C	5	3	2	0	34	18	6
Oakhill B	5	2	2	1	27	23	5
Bath Street B	5	2	3	0	22	28	4
Anfield B	5	0	2	3	21	29	3
Litherland C	5	1	3	1	17	33	3
Cadwa B	5	1	4	0	13	37	2
Bohemians C	5	1	4	0	12	38	2
Rafter's C	5	0	5	0	10	40	0

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Lussac	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Florence Oxtou	5	4	1	0	39	11	8
Victoria Pk D	5	4	1	0	34	16	8
Huntley & P	5	3	2	0	31	19	6
Bootle Nalگو	5	3	2	0	30	20	6
Nalگو	5	3	2	0	30	20	6
Waterloo Dk A	5	3	2	0	26	24	6
Domestic Miss.	5	2	3	0	17	33	4
Anfield C	5	1	3	1	17	33	3
Telecomms	5	1	4	0	17	33	2
L.P.A.S. B	5	0	4	1	11	39	1
Linnetts C	5	0	5	0	9	41	0

North Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Liverpool P.O.	6	6	0	0	57	3	12
Bootle Y.M. D	5	4	0	1	34	16	9
Waterloo Pk B	5	4	1	0	36	14	8
Co-op.	5	4	1	0	33	17	8
Belling & Lee	5	2	3	0	28	22	4
Tech. Students	4	2	2	0	20	20	4
Moss Side	5	2	3	0	16	34	4
Bath Street C	4	1	2	1	18	22	1
Anfield D	4	0	3	1	9	31	1
Lewis's	4	0	3	1	9	31	1
Waterloo Pk C	2	0	2	0	4	16	0
St. George's	5	0	5	0	6	44	0

South Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Beaulair A	5	4	0	1	38	12	9
Wavertree Lab.	5	4	1	0	39	11	8
Stuart & Drfmm	4	3	0	1	27	13	7
Wavertree Bap.	4	3	1	0	29	11	6
Fairlawn B	4	3	1	0	26	14	6
Crawfords A	5	2	2	1	19	31	5
Liverpool C.C.	4	1	3	0	16	24	2
Aigburth A	3	0	2	1	10	20	1
Oakhill D	3	0	3	0	6	24	0
L'pool C.C. A	3	0	3	0	5	25	0
Lussac A	5	0	5	0	7	43	0

LEAGUE TABLES

East Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wvtree Lab. A	5	5	0	0	33	17	10 1/3
Oakhill C . . .	5	3	0	2	28	22	8
Fairlawn A . . .	4	3	1	0	28	12	6 1/4
Ostec	5	3	2	0	26	24	6
Stoneycroft . .	4	2	2	0	21	19	4
Crawfords . . .	4	2	2	0	17	23	4
Albright	5	1	3	1	17	33	3
Beauclair B . .	4	1	3	0	19	21	2
Fairlawn C . . .	4	1	3	0	19	21	2
Nalgo A	4	1	3	0	16	24	2
English Elec. A	5	0	5	0	13	27	0

Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour	4	4	0	0	36	4	8
Cadwa	4	3	0	1	28	12	7
Rafters	4	2	0	2	27	13	6
Oakhill	4	3	1	0	23	17	6
Bath Street . . .	5	2	2	1	25	25	5
Bibbys	4	1	1	2	20	20	4
Orrell	3	1	2	0	15	15	2
Linnets	4	0	3	1	14	26	1
Bohemians	5	0	3	2	10	40	1
Bohemians A . . .	3	0	3	0	2	28	0

Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Waterloo Park	4	4	0	0	36	4	8
Cadwa A	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
Huntley & P . . .	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Sefton	4	3	1	0	29	11	6
Wavertree Lab.	4	1	3	0	10	30	2
Rafters A	3	0	3	0	5	25	0
Anfield	3	0	3	0	7	23	0
Lucem	3	0	3	0	1	29	0
Bibbys A	1	0	1	0	0	10	0

Letters

RECENTLY I had the misfortune to play against Linnets. I can honestly say that I've never had and could never have less interest in a match than I did in this one. They are, to say the least, a shambles!

The first player turned up at 7.55. The second player turned up at 8.20 (with an excuse and apology), and the other three turned up at 8.40, without an excuse or even a word of apology! I say this is a downright sloppy attitude. I, for one, couldn't care less if I never played against Linnets again. They do the same thing to my club time and time again.

For heaven's sake, Linnets, either buck your ideas up and arrive on time, or don't turn up at all! I'm sure nobody is interested in playing you when you turn up in dribs and drabs.

Lastly, may I suggest to the Committee a revision of the time rule, that is:—

"Any player not present at a match by 8.15 shall automatically forfeit his or her sets".

A. C. Taylor
(Bath Street)

Make A Note Of These

ONCE again many alterations have been necessary to the handbook since it was printed. Here is a full list. Please check them with your handbook immediately.

Page 22. Aigburth A team, match night now Tuesday.

Page 22. Albright, transferred to East Region, match night now Wednesday.

Page 22. Anfield, delete Women's A team and Secretary's telephone number. Add Anfield D, North Region, match night Thursday.

Page 23. Bibby's match night changed to Wednesday.

Page 24. Bootle Y.M.C.A., change of secretary: R. Gunnion, 227 Hawthorne Rd., Bootle. Boo 1438.

Page 24. Domestic Mission, delete Women's team.

Page 25. Delete Dunlops.

Page 25. Fairlawn, add Fairlawn C, East Region, Thursday

Page 26. Linnets, delete D team and Women's A team. Alter 1st and A team match night to Tuesday. Alter Secretary to F. A. Thomas, 19 Siddleley Road, Liverpool 17.

Page 26. Liverpool C.C. add A team, South Region, Friday. Secretary now R. L. Davies, c/o Club. Phones: Home Chi 1312, Office Nor 1431.

Page 27. Litherland, alter 1st team match night to Monday.

Page 27. Add new club. Lewis's Ltd., Clothing Factory, Beach Rd.,

Litherland. North Region, Friday. Secretary, K. Dixon, c/o Cutting Room. Phone: Waterloo 2244.

Page 28. Lussac, change A team match night to Monday.

Page 28. Oakhill, add D team, South Region, Thursday.

Page 29. Ostec. New secretary, B. E. E. Jones, 28 Larch Road, Roby. Phone: Home Huy 6008; Club Sto 4464.

Page 29. Delete Pegasus.

Page 31. Waterloo Park, add C team, North Region, match night Tuesday.

Page 31. Warbreck Moor, alter secretary's phone No. to Bir 2890.

Page 31. Wavertree Baptists, alter match night to Tuesday.

Page 44. North Region. Lewis's take Albright's fixtures. Waterloo Park C take A fixtures.

Page 45. South Region. Stuart and Doriman take C fixtures;

Oakhill D take B fixtures; Liverpool C.C. A take A fixtures. Delete Linnets D.

Page 46. East Region. Fairlawn C take A fixtures. Albright take Pegasus fixtures.

Page 48. Women's Division 1. Delete Dunlops and Domestic Mission.

Page 49. Women's Division 2. Delete Anfield A and Linnets A.

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NO SERIOUS CHALLENGE

INEVITABLY the question which arises at the opening of every season is—who will challenge the supremacy of Balfour?

This term is no exception but what is unusual is that on the showing thus far of the other teams in the first division, the challenge is not likely to be a serious one. Rafterers are by no means as strong as they were a few seasons ago when the Smithdown Road players knew they had a match on hand when they met their old rivals.

Linnets, who almost won the championship last season, are obviously missing Bill Pierce and can have little hope of making such a strong challenge again. It, however, fell to one of their players, Roy Jones, to bring an abrupt end to the all-conquering march of Arthur Taylor, of Bath Street, beating him 22-20, 9-21, 21-12.

Biggest surprise this season, so far as the first division is concerned, is without doubt the decision of Wally Allanson to leave Bootle Y.M.C.A. and join Bath Street. Allanson had been so long associated with the Y.M. and had been one of their mainstays in the past few seasons, that few people could couple his name with any other club.

Bootle's loss has been Bath Street's gain for in Allanson they have not only got a sound player to second Arthur Taylor but a sound clubman.

In Eddie Clein, Victoria Park have undoubtedly gained a great asset and one of the strongest bottom-of-the-team players in the division. In his first five matches he only dropped one set, losing to Dave Ferguson, of Rafterers, since move up in the team order, 17-21, 17-21.

Incidentally it was against the Park that Tom Killip (Litherland) produced one of the best individual performances of the season's early games, when he beat Mike Lijinsky 21-19, 9-21, 21-14, and Trevor Ellis 21-12, 21-13.

IN the second division it seems to be again a question of who will occur the runners-up position, for there can be little hope of any other team ousting Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A from the premier place. Of their five matches only Rafterers A offered them any serious opposition, although it has to be recorded that on that occasion the Y.M.C.A. team included a reserve in A. Martinez.

The promoted Rumjahn Cup winners, Waterloo Park, have surprised all with their flying start in the division. Apart from the inclusion of Alan Taylor for Bill Spencer, the side is the same as that which went undefeated last year.

Alan, brother of league champion Arthur, did not get down to serious match-play last term until Christmas, but this year his early form left no doubt that he was no longer second team material. Result—he has played his part well in an all-conquering opening run of five wins in a row, all by 8-2.

Ken Readitt is proving himself a fine leader for in the same period he dropped only one set, when beaten 21-8, 21-18 by Jim Rimmer, of Lucem. Incidentally, outside Dave Butterworth, Rimmer has one of the best averages to date in the division, nine out of ten.

Oddly enough the Park and Y.M.C.A. A do not meet until the last week of the first half of the season, but it will be interesting to see what happens when the two teams clash.

Cadwa, so greatly weakened by the loss of Mandaluff and Bradshaw, are finding the second division this season almost as hard a row to furrow as they did the first division last term. After three opening defeats the best they have been able to do to date is force two draws against Linnets A and I.C.I.

The division has two women players—Mrs. Moya Jones (Bohemians A) and Mrs. L. Rumjahn (Rafterers A). The former is more than holding her own against her male opposition, having in her first five matches dropped only two sets.

Brief Stay Likely

THERE is obviously going to be a good scrap in the third division between Anfield A and Victoria Park A, both of whom were relegated from the second division last season, and he would be a bold man who would care to forecast the result when the two meet on December 1st.

The Park side has an almost new-look appearance about it, including as it does Carroll and Mason, the former Panto players, and Tarr, ex-Wavertree Community Centre. The last named carried all before him in first four matches of the season. Considering they have also Mike Truman to call upon, the Park are a fortunate side and look almost certain to make their stay in Division 3 a brief one.

Possibly the weakest link in the Anfield side is Maurice Derbyshire at No. 5 and even he recorded 50 per cent success in his first four matches. Of the others Gee had still to taste defeat while Lewis had only dropped one set and Bintley and Sanders two apiece. What more could any team want?

Brian Pardy, the former Linnets player, has given Beauclair just that extra strength they needed to acquit themselves well in their higher sphere. The only point they dropped in the first month was to Litherland A when they were held to a draw on their own table. During that period Pardy was only twice defeated, 21-13, 21-8, by A. Kearney of Cadwa, and 21-16, 21-18, by Jim Robinson of R.A.F.A.

With the acquisition by the Waterloo Club of Wally Allanson, Cyril Smith dropped into Bath Street's A team and quickly gave evidence of what an asset he will be to them. He made his first appearance for them against Rafter's B, whom they overwhelmed to the tune of nine sets to one.

In the first month, however, A. Russell was Bath Street's most successful player. In his first three matches he won seven of his eight sets.

THE most interesting news in the fourth division to date is the fact that Cheshire women's champion Lorna Bown has joined the University team. And with her advent University picked up their first point of the season when they drew with Fairlawn, Lorna winning her two sets.

She has come to Liverpool to study at the university and all will hope that she enjoys her table tennis as much here as she did in Stockport.

Early indications are that Victoria Park B will be the team of the division this season. With their promotion from Division 5 they needed some additional strength to be able to give a good account of themselves in a higher sphere. They got it with the relegation of **players** from their A team consequent on their new signings.

But they had a setback to whatever hopes they have of repeating in Division 4 the success they achieved last season in Division 5, when they were beaten 7-3 by Waterloo Park A, thanks mainly to F. Porter and G. Lacey, who won both their sets. It was also incidentally, the first time this season that the Wavertree club's Capper and Rose lost both their matches.

Waterloo Park, however, have since had a bad blow. Harry Havard had only rejoined them this season after a four-year absence and in his three matches at No. 1 showed a 50 per cent success. Now his job as a timber representative has taken him away again—this time to Hull.

It is curious how often form goes by the board in table tennis, but that's one of the attractions of the game. Take for instance, Balfour B beating Waterloo Park A who, as already noted, beat Victoria Park B, yet the last named secured a similar victory—7-3—over the Sm'thdown Road team. And in each case the Balfour side was identical. In fact, in their first four matches both Balfour B and Victoria Park B played the same five players.

INTERESTING SITUATION

WITH only five of last season's teams remaining in it, it will be interesting to see how Division 5 develops.

To date Balfour C and Linnets B, both of whom were promoted this season, are way out ahead of the field, with five successes on the run. They are due to meet on December 3rd at Smithdown Road and it should prove an interesting clash.

Balfour's team, led by Joe Ellison, who has had a run this season in their first team when Les Mulholland could not play and had a 50 per cent success, is a pretty sound one all through, and like all the Smithdown Road players they gave little away in matches.

To date M. Looker, their No. 2, has not been beaten in a league game, while Ellison has only dropped one, to R. Davis, of Sefton.

Until they met Oakhill B, Linnets B had three undefeated players but then both Bill Hilliard and C. Guy had to give best to W. Nelson and Ken Malcolm respectively. In fact, the Oakhill players gave them the toughest fight they had had so far this season.

Drawing a line through their matches with Bohemians C—Linnets beat them 8-2 and Balfour 9-1—it seems that there is likely to be little between the two rivals when they meet.

Oakhill are doing some chopping and changing with their team. In four matches they called on no fewer than eight players, their only three ever-presents being Vic Imundi, Nelson and Glover.

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WITH only two of last season's members present this term and the other ten coming from the regions—two from the North, and four each from the South and East—the sixth division might well be looked upon as a new section of the league altogether. And the two past and present members, Domestic Mission and Anfield C, are not finding it very much easier.

Domestic, however, can boast that they have already won as many matches as they did all last session, namely two, but Anfield C have still to attain that record.

Considering that the division comprises chiefly last season's regional sides one might well have expected to see Florence Oxtan, holders of the Hyde Cup, on the top rung of the table, and well they might have been had not Victoria Park D taken their revenge for the defeat inflicted on them in the Hyde Cup final last April by the Mill Street boys.

The match cost Eddie Moran his fine record of being unbeaten for two seasons. It was A. T. Jones who brought his successful run to an end, beating him 21-16, 22-20. Nevertheless, Moran must be one of the strongest players in the division and bracketed with him must be George Gaskell, of Huntley and Palmer, who has continued to show the great fighting spirit he has displayed for the last few seasons. It has won him his first eight sets this season and among his victims have been G. Kirk (Liverpool Nalگو) and T. Rattigan (Lussac).

In Malcolm Campbell, Gaskell has a strong No. 2, as his record this season is showing—one defeat in eight sets.

Top of the table stands Lussac and they can thank the two Holmeses, H. and W., respective Nos. 3 and 4, for their exalted position. Both only dropped one set in their first four matches, H. Holmes being beaten 19-21, 20-22 by M. Campbell, and W. Holmes losing 15-21, 17-21 to A. Thompson (Liverpool Nalگو).

Waterloo Dock A might consider themselves unfortunate in that they had to play two reserves in their opening match and so crashed 1-9 to Florence Oxtan. With the inclusion of K. Beresford and A. Webster they have done much better, registering three good wins over Bootle Nalگو, Telecomms and Linnets C.

Out On Their Own

AT one time it looked as though the North Region teams were due for a season of playing-by-instalments—a couple of matches, then a blank week, a couple more and so on. Fortunately with new teams coming into the region the position will not be nearly as bad as that.

It is not surprising that with experienced players like A. R. Fowler, W. Shiel and W. Cornthwaite, whose names have a more familiar ring than that of their club, the Liverpool Post Office have been sweeping all opposition out of their path. Two victories by 10-nil and three by 9-1 in their first five bodes ill for those who match them on the table.

Nor is it surprising that at least two of their players have yet to taste defeat. Indeed, both Fowler and Cornthwaite have only twice been taken to three games in their ten sets, while Shiel, whose only defeat was to J. Cantwell, of Belling and Lee, has also been overwhelming the majority of his opponents. It would probably have been better for the Postmen had they been placed in a higher sphere, but they are playing as a new team and therefore must come in at the bottom.

At one time it looked as though Liverpool Co-op. were going to offer a pretty strong challenge in the region, that is until they met the Post Office. Nevertheless from the way they have been playing they would not be showing an excess of over-confidence if they hoped to finish runners-up.

Murphy and Crank are proving themselves to be more than useful leaders and it was not until they met the Postmen that they had to bow their heads. The manner of their successes, especially those of Murphy, was truly convincing.

No team in the whole of the Liverpool League has taken more punishment during the past couple of seasons than Technical Students. Last term their entire success

amounted to one win. Already they have outdone this for they have recorded an 8-2 and a 9-1 victory over two of the new teams, St. George's and Moss Side respectively. It must be heartening to Pearson, Spencer and Company.

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THE South Region looks like producing one of the most open contests in the whole league. Like the other regions it includes several new teams and already one or two of these have shown that the "old hands" need not expect to have matters all their own way.

As an instance of this what better example than the 7-3 win scored by Wavertree Baptists over Wavertree Labour on the latter's own table. For this the victors could thank chiefly the two Traverses, M. and J., each of whom scored a "double", albeit those of M. Travis were hard-earned for he beat N. Hambleton 21-14, 13-21, 21-14 and N. Challoner 15-21, 21-19, 21-7.

The team to watch, however, should be Beauclair A. Strengthened by the inclusion of John McKim, relegated from the first team following the signing up of Pardy, they dropped a point to newcomers Stuart and Dorfman in the first match of the season and then proceeded to sweep all before them.

Both E. Radcliffe, at No. 1, and McKim lost a set in that first match, since when they have disposed of all comers, albeit they have several times had to fight hard to come out on the winning end. This was particularly so against the Baptists and Liverpool Cricket Club another new team which includes some familiar names.

Aigburth A continue to struggle manfully to amass a few points each season. Thus early in the season they have been encouraged by holding Crawford's A to a draw on Crawford's table, when J. Evans got a double by beating A. Lawson 21-17, 21-12, and W. Eymond 21-12, 19-21, 21-14.

WAVERTREE'S GOOD LEADERS

Stuart & Dorfman became members of the league more by accident than design and they are showing themselves a team to be reckoned with. They have a more than useful No. 1 in E. Dorfman. He it was who was responsible for Radcliffe and McKim of Beauclair having a red mark chalked against them, and it was his two wins, together with those of F. Kenny, that enabled S. and D. to steal a point from Beauclair.

Since then Dorfman has collected the scalps of Kneale and Cottrell, of Lussac, and Doyle and McCracken, of Oakhill.



THE East Region might well develop into a fight between Wavertree Labour A, one of the new teams in the league, and Oakhill C, and much could depend on their two meetings, the first at Oakhill on December 3 and the second at Wavertree on March 2.

To date the Labour club have won all their matches, while Oakhill has only dropped two points by being twice held to a draw.

Mainstay of Wavertree's success have been their Nos. 1 and 4, R. Thomas and G. Whitfield, both of whom have scored several doubles victories in their matches this season. Among the victims Thomas has claimed are French and Phillips of Fairlawn, Spencer and Shepherd of Nalگو, and Hoare and Harrison of Crawfords, and only Phillips and Harrison have taken him to three sets.

Whitfield's wins have been over O'Donnell and Walters of Fairlawn,

Harper and Miss Hand of Nalگو, and Horsley and Brown of Crawfords, although in three of those sets he was taken to three games.

Newcomers to the league, Ostec, may well prove one of the teams in the region to watch. Although they slipped up when they met Fairlawn A and were beaten 7-3, they have scored some good wins. They have in I. G. Morris a No. 1 who will demand respect from all who meet him. He has started the season with four doubles victories and all in straight games, in five of which his opponents have not reached double figures.

Another useful member of the team is B. E. E. Jones, who has buzzed about so well that he has only been beaten once in four matches, when he lost in a three-game set to O'Donnell of Fairlawn. Moretta and Gillett are others who can give a good account of themselves but the team needs some strengthening at No. 5. Given that they could well upset the aspirations of both Wavertree Labour and Oakhill.

Somehow or other one would expect English Electric A to be doing better than they have so far achieved. Last season in the North Region they gave a fairly useful account of themselves, claiming altogether ten victories. So far this term the best they have done is to hold Ostec to a 4-6 defeat.

Admittedly they have early on met what looks to be the strongest teams in the region, so it is possible that their fortunes will improve in the matches to come.

Where's The Young Players ?

By Eileen Mansell

WHAT is happening to women's table tennis in Liverpool? Each season sees fewer women taking part in the game which was most popular just after the war. Can it be that women have other diversions?

It is still the "old faithfuls" such as Ivy Crafter, Olive Dickenson, Edna Moore, Ann Allen and Lil Robinson, who are keeping the women's divisions going. What has happened to all the young players we hoped would come into the game?

With the season a month old the battles of the divisions have begun. Once again Balfour have got off to a good start, and by winning their first four matches have got a point lead over their nearest rivals, Cadwa. The two have still to play each other and it will be interesting to see what happens.

Cadwa have this season been strengthened by Pauline Lawrenson who has taken Brenda Cain's place. Their match with Rafters was an exciting affair which ended even. Myra Lovelady won her two sets and the doubles with Jean Reynolds, who, with Elizabeth Loughrey, added a set apiece. Ivy Crafter once again helped Cadwa to make it a draw by winning her two sets, to which Pauline and Betty Black added one each.

Orrell are not finding it quite so easy this season in Division 1. Up to now they have only two points but they had a very close match with Oakhill which they lost 4-6 but could easily have forced a draw. Billie Illidge (née Finetty—congrats Billie on your marriage) only just lost to Lil Robinson 19-21 in the third.

One of the most improved players this season is Barbara Taylor (née Hardacre and more congratulations). No doubt husband Arthur has helped her with her game. To date she has to her credit Reg Hoyle, Olive Dickenson and M. Harris (Linnets).

Waterloo Park have made a fine start in Division 2 by winning their

first four matches and only conceding four sets in doing so. Challenging them strongly, however, are Cadwa A, Huntley & Palmer and Sefton, and indeed the division looks very open.

This season we have two women's teams in the Lancashire and Cheshire League and it is pleasing to report that the A team's first match at Oakhill produced a victory by 7-3. The team consisted of Joyce Randall (Balfour), Myra Lovelady (Rafters) and Lil Lacey (Orrell). All three played exceedingly well and Lil Lacey deserves a special mention for her showing in her first inter-city match.

I would suggest, however, that she takes a little more time in picking up the ball and returning to the table and also having obtained a lead to try and hang on to it. Twice she managed to forge into the lead only to lose it. But this all comes with experience.

Joyce Randall played with far more confidence than she did last season and was in tip-top form. She lost two of her sets in straight games and her attack was most consistent. Myra Lovelady, whose second inter-city match it was, was a little nervous at first but steadied down to play some very good table tennis.

She came near to beating Mrs. B. Hardman, the former Lancashire and Manchester player, for she twice held the lead at 20 but was unable to force home the winning point. However, there was consolation for her in that she won her other two sets, and shared the doubles with Joyce Randall.

With Lil Lacey also winning two singles, the three of them fully justified their selection and I am sure will have many more victories.

Let me convey to Lil Jenkins on behalf of all women members of the league, our best wishes for her future happiness in her new life in Sierra Leone where she goes shortly to join her husband. She will be a great loss to Orrell, but I am sure she will always remember the happy times she has had there.