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**TABLE
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Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE *Digest* TENNIS

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J. C. McKim, A. Montgomery

Vol. IX

MARCH, 1959

No. 4

THE GOOD CLUB SPIRIT

IS your club social-minded and, if so, do you take part in the social activities? These two questions are much more pertinent than at first view appears to be the case, and the player who can answer them both in the affirmative is not only fortunate in his or her choice of club but is also an asset to the club.

Far too many of our clubs appear to have but one interest—their table tennis matches—and while that may seem to be laudable, it hardly creates the spirit which should prevail among clubs. It is one of the reasons why we hear of so many players who are only seen in the clubrooms on match nights and for whom, at other times, the club simply does not exist.

Naturally all the blame for a lack of club spirit cannot be laid at the doors of the individual players if the clubs themselves do not do something to engender that spirit—something that will attract them and will bind them together.

It is easy to look round the league and pick out the clubs where there is an *esprit de corps*, and an inquiry will soon prove that such clubs do not rely solely on table tennis for their attraction. As a result, in the main, such clubs are happy ones, even though domestically there are differences of opinion. It is rare, indeed, to find such clubs have difficulties about their teams. Into each and every one of their members has been inculcated the feeling that the club is more important than the individual and that the good name of the club is something to protect.

Admittedly with some of our clubs the inclusion of social events in their yearly programme is well nigh impossible, especially those to whom the use of their premises is strictly limited, but we sincerely believe that some effort to overcome those difficulties would bring its own reward. After all "man does not live by bread alone"—nor table tennis.

Let us therefore try to create a good club spirit where it does not already exist and maintain it where it does. The league, the clubs and the individual members will be all the happier for it.

From the Secretary's Desk

YOU CAN HELP IN SMOOTH RUNNING OF "CLOSED"

by John McKim

IN this issue of the *Digest* you will find your entry form for the Liverpool Closed Tournament. Please help us by filling it in NOW and posting it right away.

I wonder how many of you have ever thought of the amount of work which has to be done by the tournament secretary and the tournament referee, between the receipt of your entry form and your arrival at the table to play your first match. You can all help immensely in this work by sending your entry in early.

The smooth running of your tournament can also be helped if you arrive on time. Last year the time keeping at the Closed was extremely good, particularly on the men's singles nights, when all tables were in play at 6 p.m.

HELP YOURSELF

Your club secretary will soon be receiving nomination papers for the Annual General Meeting in May, and be asked to submit proposals for rule alterations.

It has been the accepted fact in recent years, that if five or six nomination papers are returned from over 50 clubs we are doing well. Now the officials and committee members appointed at the A.G.M. control your table tennis activities for the following twelve months. Surely you should have some say in their nomination.

The first match between the Liverpool League and the Liverpool Business Houses League takes place at the Beauclair Clubroom on Friday, March 13. The winning League will hold the F. L. Forrest Cup for twelve months.

As the idea seemed to be well received last season, small replica cups will again be presented to members of cup winning teams, instead of medals, and the cups and League championship medals will again be presented wherever possible at the conclusion of the deciding matches.

A Satisfactory Season

WITH the exception of one postponed match between our ladies' A team and Bury which has not yet been re-arranged, all fixtures in the Lancashire and Cheshire League have now been completed and it is possible to judge the performances of the various teams.

The most satisfactory feature as far as the senior teams are concerned has been the ability of the men to more than hold their own in the premier division of the league. Indeed, they may finish runners-up to Manchester, which would be no mean performance.

As I suggested last month the remaining matches against Nelson and Southport resulted in victories by 9-1 and 8-2 respectively, which presents the happy picture of: Played 6, Won 4; Lost 2.

The match with Nelson ended a few minutes before midnight and it was fortunate that it was played at Huntley and Palmers where a night shift were at work. The Nelson team lost their way and did not arrive until 8.45. What time they arrived back in Nelson I shudder to think, but their players were quite happy about it and the match was interesting despite the score.

The game with Southport provided the season's finale, with only Bernard Hand, of Southport, who defeated Norman Jones and Peter Rumjahn, able to make any impression on the Liverpool trio.

Arthur Taylor was in devastating form, winning his three singles to finish the season with an average of 78 per cent in the Lancashire and Cheshire League. Norman Jones also fared well to finish with 61 per cent.

Between them these two players have shouldered the main burden this season and have served the cause of Liverpool table tennis extremely well. Peter Rumjahn, recalled to duty for the last two

matches, amply justified his inclusion by winning five of his six sets.

The ladies' first team on the other hand, does not present such a happy picture, and although they did manage to defeat Wirral 6-4 in the last match, their fate still depends on the outcome of the Wirral v Manchester match. Manchester should beat Wirral, but even so surely our girls should not be in such a poor position.

Where are the up and coming girls? Not since the days of Andree Jones have we produced a young girl player of real talent. Only Manchester seems to be able to go on doing that. But perhaps our day will dawn again.

The ladies' A team, rather ironically, could well end up winners of their division, having enjoyed a very good season. Losing their only match to Oldham at home, they reversed the decision in the return game and it will therefore be a very narrow margin at the top of the table.

Mrs. Myra Lovelady, with an average of 80 per cent, has had an extremely good outing, while Mrs. Lil Lacey has no cause to be disappointed with her performances.

Finally to the men's A team who concluded their programme with a 6-4 win over Wigan. Seven players in all have played in the team during the season and it is not therefore fair to judge any particular performance, yet the fact remains that only one match has been lost.

It is a pity that the opposition in most cases was not stronger for it would have brought out the best in our younger players and no doubt helped their games considerably.

Taken all round, however, it has been an encouraging season and in the main the general standard of play in Liverpool is not below that of other Leagues.

DEREK CRAIG'S FINE RECORD

by Jack Pattison

THE junior team completed their first season in the Lancashire and Cheshire League with a draw and two victories and so retained their unbeaten record. Taken all round the season can be regarded as a most successful one, despite the fact that points dropped by reason of the drawn matches with Stockport and Wirral and should not have been.

One problem, however, will face us next season—the finding of a replacement for Derek Craig, who will no longer be eligible for junior play. Derek has borne most of the weight of the season and has finished with the fine record of having played 24 sets, won 21 and lost three, to give him a percentage of 87.5.

John Ball can also look back on a fine season with a record of 24 played, 18 won, 6 lost, for a percentage of 75.0, while although he would have done better if he eliminated an inclination to carelessness and speeded up his reactions and footwork, Peter Keating played his part by winning 12 sets out of the 21 he played to give him a percentage of 57.1.

For the last match against Warrington, Ted Briscoe, of Liverpool Y.M., was brought in in place of Keating and although he only won one of his singles, he showed that he has possibilities.

The match with Wirral produced some worthwhile table tennis and a great finish by Craig. He knew he had to beat Wirral's junior county player, Edgar, if Liverpool were to draw, and although he slipped up in the first game by allowing Edgar to win it after he had been in a winning position, Craig more than made up for that by reversing the situation in the third game to finally win 23-21.

Actually Liverpool lost their chance of victory when Keating was beaten by Marsh, Wirral's No. 3, after winning the first game in convincing manner. He made too many mistakes in the second and third and so paid the penalty.

Our five sets came through Craig completing his treble and Ball beating both Docherty and Marsh.

In the match with Oldham (won 3-2) both Keating and Ball fell to the opposing No. 1, and in the final match with Warrington (won 7-3), Ball dropped a set to the Warrington No. 1, in addition to the two lost by Briscoe.

Despite a 75 per cent success in the doubles sets, one could wish for a better understanding than was seen this season. There is little doubt that our younger players badly need doubles practice.

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LIVERPOOL 1

A Brilliant Fight-back

By Joe Ellison

THE championship of the Fifth Division was virtually at stake when Oakhill B visited Sefton General, for the latter knew that if they were to continue their challenge of Linnets B they had to win this match.

It was therefore quite a setback for them when they were beaten 6-4, thanks chiefly to a brilliant recovery made by Oakhill's Jones in his match against Kettle.

At that point Oakhill led 4-3 and the Sefton player knew it was up to him to put his team on level terms if they were to have a chance of winning. As an earnest of his endeavour he proceeded to take the first game 21-17, but Jones hit back well to level with a 21-14 win.

With the advent of the final game Kettle swept into a 13-2 lead against what appeared to be a tired opponent and it seemed certain that Sefton would get on terms. But Mr. Jones had other thoughts. He seriously set about pulling back the points with the finest display of defensive table tennis I have seen in this division, to gradually wear Kettle down until he caught up at 17-all.

Jones, in fact, went into the lead at 20-19 only for Kettle to level the scores. The pair proceeded to exchange points to 26-all before the Oakhill player won two in succession for the set and to ensure his team of at least a draw.

To say the match was the highlight of the evening is begging it, for it was worthy of the first division.

Oakhill had opened the match by taking a quick two-sets lead through Nelson and Jones. The former easily won his first game against penholder Davies 21-10 but with the Sefton player giving an improved display in the next game it went to 24-22 before the Oakhill man won.

Jones and Douglas had a rare battle in which both played with

great determination, and if any one thing more than another gave Jones victory 21-19 in the third, it was his excellent length.

Kettle pulled one back for Sefton by blasting his way through the first and the third game to win the decider 21-12, but Glover restored Oakhill's two sets lead in a somewhat scrappy match in which Watson (Sefton) showed little consistency with his attack and fell an easy victim to Glover's high returns.

Three-one down Sefton were finding the going heavy but their hopes rose again when McKechnie took his first game against Imundi 21-17 by means of some good attacking shots. Wild hitting and some sloppy defence however gave Imundi the chance to take the second game, and having got such a tonic Imundi promptly produced some remarkably good shots that quickly had McKechnie in trouble.

The Sefton player tried hard to retrieve matters but he had allowed Imundi too much leeway and the Oakhill player took the game 21-15 to put Oakhill 4-1 in the lead.

After the interval Douglas put the home side in a better position by hitting an easy two-straight win against Glover and Davies went on to improve their position still further when he got a similar win over Roberts, although the Oakhill player contributed somewhat to his own defeat by some wildish hitting.

Then came the Jones-Kettle epic after which we saw McKechnie give his side at least the chance of a draw by gaining a 21-8 in the third victory over Nelson.

So we came to the final set with Imundi and Watson to play it. To Sefton half a loaf was at least better than no bread at all, but it was to be a case of no bread for a hard struggle, worthy of the occasion, saw the Oakhill player emerge winner 21-15 in the third game.

LEAGUE TABLES

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour	20	20	0	0	157	43	40
Rafters	20	12	3	5	119	81	29
Victoria Pk	19	11	4	4	114	75	26
L'pool Y.M.	18	11	5	2	114	66	24
Bohemians	19	9	7	3	96	94	21
Linnets	19	8	7	4	100	90	20
Bootle Y.M.	19	6	7	6	90	100	18
Anfield	20	8	11	1	97	103	17
Bath Street	19	5	10	4	88	102	14
Oakhill	20	5	15	0	68	131	10
Balfour A	20	3	16	1	57	143	7
Litherland	19	2	15	2	59	131	6

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool Y.M. A	20	20	0	0	175	25	40
Waterloo Pk	19	18	1	0	155	35	36
Bootle Y.M. A	20	15	5	0	125	75	30
Rafters A	18	10	7	1	104	76	21
Oakhill A	20	7	8	5	90	110	19
Cadwa	20	7	8	5	89	110	19
Waterloo Dk	20	7	10	3	96	104	17
Lucern	20	7	10	3	85	115	17
Bohemians A	19	6	9	4	80	110	16
I.C.I.	20	4	13	3	75	125	11
Linnets A	19	1	15	3	50	140	5
English Elec.	19	1	17	1	43	146	3

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Victoria Pk A	20	20	0	0	173	27	40
Anfield A	20	15	4	1	136	64	31
Litherland A	19	9	5	5	104	86	23
Beauchair	20	9	7	4	103	97	22
Bath Street A	20	7	7	6	106	94	20
Bootle Y.M. B	20	8	8	4	94	106	20
R.A.F.A.	20	7	8	5	98	102	19
Everton Y.M.	20	6	10	4	84	116	16
Linacre	19	6	10	3	80	110	15
Rafters B	18	5	9	4	72	108	14
L.P.A.S.	19	4	12	3	77	113	11
Cadwa A	19	1	17	1	43	147	3

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour B	20	18	1	1	152	48	37
Victoria Pk B	20	17	1	2	142	58	36
Watrlow Pk A	20	15	4	1	128	72	31
Fairlawn	20	13	4	3	128	72	29
Litherland B	19	11	6	2	106	84	24
University	19	8	9	2	88	102	18
Wrbrck Moor	20	6	11	3	87	113	15
Harold House	19	6	11	2	78	112	14
L'pool Y.M. B	20	5	12	3	88	112	13
Bohemians B	20	3	13	4	75	125	10
Aigburth	19	4	15	0	57	133	8
L.P.A.S. A	20	0	19	1	51	149	1

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Linnets B	19	16	2	1	146	44	33
Balfour C	18	16	2	0	138	42	32
Victoria Pk C	20	15	5	0	146	54	30
Sefton	18	15	3	0	132	48	30
Oakhill B	19	11	6	2	106	84	24
Bootle Y.M. C	19	10	7	2	95	95	22
Bath St. B	18	7	10	1	87	93	15
Anfield B	20	4	11	5	81	119	13
Litherland C	19	6	12	1	72	118	13
Rafters C	20	3	16	1	48	152	7
Bohemians C	20	3	17	0	49	151	6
Cadwa B	20	2	17	1	50	150	5

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Victoria Pk D	20	18	2	0	149	51	36
Flo Oxtou	20	16	1	3	146	54	35
Lussac	20	14	3	3	130	70	31
Wtrloo Dk A	20	14	6	0	119	81	28
Huntley & P.	19	11	7	1	106	74	23
Nalgo	19	9	9	1	84	86	19
Bootle Nalgo	19	7	10	3	101	99	17
Telecomms	19	7	11	1	82	108	15
Domestic Mis.	20	5	11	4	71	129	14
Linnets C	20	2	14	4	62	138	8
Anfield C	19	3	15	1	61	129	7
L.P.A.S. B	20	0	17	3	49	151	3

North Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Liverpool P.O.	19	17	1	1	173	17	35
Co-op.	20	17	2	1	154	46	35
Wtrloo Pk B	19	15	3	1	135	55	31
Bath St. C.	19	11	6	2	116	74	24
Bootle Y.M. D	18	10	5	3	104	76	23
Tech. Studs.	20	11	9	0	99	111	22
Belling & Lee	18	9	8	1	95	85	19
Mess Side	19	8	10	1	82	108	17
Lewis's	20	3	14	3	61	139	9
Wtrloo Pk C	16	1	11	4	53	107	6
Anfield D	18	2	15	1	40	140	5
St. Georges	19	0	19	0	14	176	0

South Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wvrtree Lab.	17	16	1	0	141	29	32
Wvrtree Bap.	17	15	2	0	139	31	30
Beauchair A	18	13	2	3	127	53	29
Stuart & Drfmm	17	9	5	3	98	72	21
Liverpool C.C.	18	9	7	2	94	86	20
Aigburth A	18	7	8	3	84	96	17
Fairlawn B	18	7	10	1	86	94	15
Crawfords A	19	6	11	2	68	122	14
Oakhill D	18	3	15	0	51	129	6
Lussac A	18	2	16	0	45	135	4
L'pool C.C. A	16	3	13	0	35	125	4

LEAGUE TABLES

East Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Ostec	17	14	2	1	118	52	34
Fairlawn A . . .	18	15	2	1	131	49	31
Wvtree Lab A . .	18	14	1	3	115	65	31
Crawfords . . .	18	10	5	3	105	75	23
Nalgo A	18	7	8	3	90	90	17
Stoneycroft . .	19	7	9	3	91	99	17
Beauclair B . .	17	6	8	3	85	85	15
Oakhill C . . .	18	5	10	3	74	106	13
Fairlawn C . . .	18	3	13	2	65	115	8
English Elc A . .	17	3	12	2	60	110	8
Albright & W . .	18	1	15	2	46	134	4

Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour	17	17	0	0	142	28	34
Rafters	15	11	2	2	101	49	24
Cadwa	16	9	4	3	95	65	21
Oakhill	15	7	4	4	83	67	18
Bibbys	17	6	6	4	85	75	16
Orrell	14	6	7	1	74	66	13
Bohemians . . .	16	5	10	1	59	101	11
Linnets	15	3	8	4	70	80	10
Bath Street . .	16	3	10	3	57	103	9
Bohemians A . .	16	0	16	0	14	146	0

Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Waterloo Pk . .	14	13	0	1	112	28	27
Cadwa A	15	12	2	1	114	36	25
Sefton	14	9	4	1	87	53	19
Huntley & P. . .	13	7	3	3	84	46	17
Anfield	14	6	6	2	73	67	14
Bibbys A	13	4	9	0	41	89	8
Rafters A	13	3	9	1	42	88	7
Wvtree Lab. . .	14	3	10	1	48	92	7
Lucem	13	0	13	0	18	112	0

Cup Finals

READMAN

BALFOUR v RAFTERS
at L.P.A.S.

on Friday, 20th March

Official in charge: Mr. A. Upton.

BARTHOLOMEW

BALFOUR v CADWA
at Bohemians

on Wednesday, 25th March

Official in charge:

Miss M. Lindner

RUMJAHN

VICTORIA PARK A v
VICTORIA PARK B
at Beauclair

on Tuesday, 24th March

Official in charge:

Mr. J. Robinson

HYDE

WAVERTREE BAPTISTS v
WAVERTREE LABOUR
at Balfour

on Monday, 23rd March

Official in charge: Mr. J. Ellison

Old Rivals Meet Again

SO once again it is to be Balfour v Rafterers in the final of the Readman Cup. The last time they met two years ago Rafterers won by the odd game; the year before it was Balfour who similarly succeeded. What will it be this season?

The pity of the semi-finals was that Balfour were given a walk-over by Victoria Park, for in addition to the fact that there is nothing satisfactory about walking into a cup final, the pairing had every promise of producing a great fight.

Rafterers won their way into the final with a really convincing win over Bath Street. They made a strategic move by playing Clint Casselman at No. 2, which together with a great display by Ron Rumjahn was a deciding factor.

Rumjahn once again proved that he can rise to the big occasion for he inflicted what must have been one of the worst defeats Arthur Taylor has suffered in the league this season. Oddly enough he had much more trouble in beating Wally Allanson.

With two "doubles" from Dave Ferguson and Jack McCaig and a single from Peter Rumjahn, Rafterers were safely through. Bath Street's three came from Taylor and Gould both beating Casselman and Allanson defeating Peter Rumjahn.

Cadwa Again

By similar victories in their semi-final ties—6-4—Cadwa and Balfour qualified to meet again in the final of the Bartholomew Cup, but this time victory by a point, as was the

case when Cadwa won last year, will be ruled out by the new rules.

Cadwa had Pauline Lawrenson and Ivy Crafter to thank for their win over Linnets, for each of them won their two singles. Betty Black added another and with Ivy won their doubles set.

Pauline got her victories by beating M. Harris 15 and 15 and L. Wynne 12 and 14, while Ivy had as comfortable successes over Margaret O'Donnell (11 and 15) and Miss Wynne (14 and 13). Mrs. Turnbull was most successful for Linnets, beating P. Brackley, brought in at No. 1, 8 and 12 and Betty Black 14 -15 8.

The Balfour-Rafterers tie was quite an exciting affair, the result of which was only decided in the last doubles set in which Olive Dickenson and Joyce Jones beat Rosemary McMullen and Elizabeth Loughrey 21-18 in the third.

Probably the memory of two league defeats led Rafterers to make a team switch, playing Elizabeth Loughrey No. 1, Rosemary McMullen two, Myra Lovelady three and Jean Reynolds four and it almost paid dividends for no fewer than six of the ten sets went to three games.

Rosemary played well throughout the match, beating Olive in a great struggle 26-24 19-21 22-20 and narrowly losing to Julie Roberts after taking the first game 22-20. Elizabeth Loughrey took a game off Joyce Randall, who beat Myra Lovelady two straight.

AND A SECOND REPLAY

Club Affairs

THE final of the Rumjahn Cup is to be an all-Victoria Park affair, with the A team playing the B team, but it is pretty certain that it will not produce as keen a match as did the semi-final between Victoria Park B and Balfour B which needed a replay to settle the issue and which Park took 6-4.

Main difference between the two cup games was that Park included Eddie Cameron in the replay and he gained them a valuable win by beating Gerry Gill 14 and 15.

Balfour got away to a flying start by winning the first two sets but from then on it was all Victoria Park, for they took the next six sets to ensure their appearance in the final.

Mike Truman got his double by beating Gill and Cliff Fay and with Cameron, Staunton and Horne added one apiece. Unluckiest man of the match was Fay for he played well in both his sets and yet lost them.

Victoria Park A had to fight much harder than the score of 8-2 suggests to win their semi-final against Anfield A. For instance, both Mason and Carroll dropped their first games to Derbyshire and Lewis and in the end Carroll only just scraped home 29-27 in the third.

Morris (2), Mason (2), Carroll (2) and Tarr were Park's winners, while Sanders and Lewis got one each for Anfield, both in three games.

All-South

Surprise of the Hyde Cup semi-finals was the fact that Beauclair A held the South Region leaders, Wavertree Labour, to a draw, especially in view of the fact that in their previous league meeting the Labour Club were fairly easy winners by 8-2.

For the second bite at the cherry Beauclair had to thank Stan Sturgeon. Down 17-20 to McEvoy in the final game of the match, Sturgeon took the next five points in a row to force the draw.

John McKim, however, laid the foundation by winning his two sets, while Radcliffe and Palmer got one each. Wavertree's five came from Challonor and Armson two each and Hambleton one.

Unfortunately the replay was arranged too late to be reported in this issue, but at least the final will be an all-South Region affair since Wavertree Baptists beat the East Region side, Ostec, by seven sets to three.

It was no easy thing for them for four of their seven victories went to three games. Inge had to fight hard to beat both Morris and Crawford, the former 21-12 and the latter 21-15 in the third. Travis and Jay were other double winners for the Baptists.

Kelly made a bold effort for Ostec by beating Kewly 13 and 17 and J. Travis 10-21 21-14 21-12, but only Handley could gain another set, also beating J. Travis 12 and 13.

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The Relegation Puzzle

IT is still anybody's guess which two teams will be relegated from the First Division at the end of the season.

Litherland have taken over the position of wooden spoonists, mainly as the result of two valuable victories gained by Oakhill in the past month, one of them by six sets to four over Litherland.

For this they could thank Bill Harris and L. Read, both of whom won their two sets. Harris beat both Killip and Clayton in rather comfortable fashion—21-11, 21-15 and 21-12, 21-15 respectively—but although Read was a fairly easy winner by 21-16, 21-15 against Malley, he had a much more difficult task to beat Sargent, finally achieving it 21-10, 16-21, 25-23.

To these four sets Dancaaster and G. Read added one apiece, while Litherland's four came from Chew beating G. Read and Lawson (playing as resreve), Killip also beating Lawson and Malley defeating Dancaaster.

The following evening Balfour A also collected a couple of equally valuable points with a like win over Anfield. They did so because Parry gained his "double" over Brierley and Gee, the first in a close match 21-18, 19-21, 21-18 and the latter 21-15, 21-18. Davies, Wallace, Fay and Eileen Mansell each added a set apiece.

For Anfield, Alan Lawson was a double winner, beating Davies 21-19, 21-8 and Wallace 21-18, 21-12; Oakes got one with a 21-23, 21-13, 21-15 win over Fay, and Barnes beat Miss Mansell 21-13, 24-22.

A match that produced a first-class struggle was that between Bath Street and Victoria Park and which ended in a draw. From it Arthur Taylor was the only player who emerged victorious, beating both Lijinsky and Grayson although losing the first game 19-21 to the former. By contrast, Weir was the only player who did not enjoy a victory for he was beaten by both Hudson (11 and 10) and Clein (15 and 10).

To give Bath Street the draw Allanson beat Ellis (16-21, 21-13, 21-19), Gould beat Hudson (13-21, 23-21, 21-17) and Aspinall beat Clein (21-9, 17-21, 21-18), while each of the Victoria Park team gained one set. Lijinsky beat Allanson 21-15, 21-17; Grayson beat Gould 21-14, 21-16; Ellis beat Aspinall 21-19, 21-14; and Hudson and Clein beat Weir.

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IT is obvious that if the first division lose the one A team in its present set up, it is going to get another to take its place. Nothing short of an earthquake will stop Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A from gaining promotion, for at the time of writing they have won all their 18 matches and only dropped 23 sets in the course of doing so.

Another obvious fact is that Waterloo Park will accompany them, for except from possibly suffering another defeat from the Y.M.—although that is questionable since Waterloo will have the advantage of their own table and conditions—there does not appear to be a second team strong enough to upset their smooth flow.

In contrast to the Y.M. players, however, all five members of the Waterloo team—if they continue to hold their positions—will be making their debut in the first division.

A curious situation arose in the English Electric match with Cadwa. Both teams were a man short, Longstaffe being absent from the English Electric side and Jones from the Cadwa team. The result was a 5-4 victory for Cadwa, with a set unplayed since the missing players should have met each other.

Lucem's lady player, Mrs. Gladys Rimmer, now the only regular woman player in the division, has not been having the best of luck during the past month. In three matches at the beginning of February she failed to notch a win although she several times came near to doing so; none more so than against Draper, of Bohemians A, to whom she only lost 16-21 in the third.

FIGHTING TO KEEP STATUS

By contrast, husband Jim winds his victorious way and must have one of the best records in the division. In the same three matches he was a double winner each time, although three times he had to concede a game. Two were in the one match, against Ramsdale and Hamill, of Oakhill A.

There seems little hope of Linnets A and English Electric avoiding the drop into Division 3. Both teams are obviously out of their class and there is very little difference between them as was shown in their recent match when Linnets won 6-4.

IT certainly looks as though Victoria Park A will be the third team in the league to go through the season without defeat. At the time of writing their record is most impressive, 17 successive victories and only 22 sets conceded.

At the other end of the table Linacre and Everton Y.M.C.A. are both putting up a great fight to remain in the division. During February both of them pretty well matched each other point for point, with the Y.M. gaining just enough advantage to put themselves above their rivals in the table.

Such was the position when they played their return match and appropriately enough it finished all square. For this Everton owed most to Peter Turtle and J. Codd, for they each won their two sets. Turtle beat Reeve and Lacy 21-19, 21-16 and 21-16, 21-16 respectively and Codd was victorious over the two Davidsons, beating J. 8-21, 21-10, 21-15, and A. 21-19, 21-15. The odd set came from Gouldson beating McGonigal 21-13, 19-21, 21-18.

Linacre's quintet was the result of each member of the team winning one set. Reeve and J. Davidson each beat Cullen, the former 14-21, 21-8, 21-12, and the latter 21-15, 21-17; Lacy and McGonigal triumphed over Jones 21-12, 21-18 and 21-13, 21-19 respectively and A. Davidson defeated Gouldson 21-13, 21-18.

The Y.M.'s best performance of the month, however, was in beating Anfield A 6-4. Once again Turtle was the man of the match, with Gouldson this time also scoring a "double". Turtle's pair came by his

beating Gee (21-15, 22-20) and Bintley (16-21, 21-19, 21-14), while Gouldson gained his with victories over Sanders (20-22, 21-18, 21-16) and Derbyshire (21-18, 22-20).

Donnelly (beat Sanders 21-18, 14-21, 21-18) and Jones (beat Derbyshire 21-10, 21-18) provided the other two sets, while Lewis (beat Cullen 21-18, 18-21, 21-18 and Jones 21-12, 21-16), Gee (beat Cullen 21-14, 16-21, 21-18) and Bintley (beat Donnelly 21-12, 21-12) got the four sets for Anfield.

VICTORIA PARK B are certainly chasing Balfour B hard for the leadership of the Fourth Division. At the time of writing they had narrowed the gap to a point, the result of a series of victories in February.

Bohemians B did themselves some good when they scored a 6-4 win over Aigburth, which may well have the effect of keeping them in the division, and this was despite the fact that they had to field a reserve.

Their chief winners were Pemberton and Jenkinson. The former was a comparatively comfortable winner (21-18, 21-9) over Donnelly and (21-18, 21-17) over Wass, but after he also had beaten Wass (21-14, 21-16), Jenkinson found himself taken to three by Jones before running out winner 21-19, 12-21, 21-13. Ashton and reserve Smith got Bohemians' other two sets.

Evans with wins over Crawford 21-17, 21-15 and Ashton 12-21, 21-16, 21-17; Donnelly (beat Crawford 16-21, 21-18, 21-17) and Jones (beat Smith 21-13, 21-19) got Aigburth's four sets.

Warbreck Moor scored a useful victory at the beginning of February when they visited Harold House. Their 6-4 win was achieved through a double by Reynolds and one set each from the other four members of the side.

Reynold's two wins were both convincing for he beat Clein 21-18 twice and Jacobs 21-17, 21-16.

Two of the hardest matches of the month were those played by Blackman. He was twice taken to three games before beating Rees (21-14) and Christie (21-19) in the decider.

FORFEIT MAY PROVE DEAR

One of the best individual victories during February was that gained by young Chris Coveney (Liverpool Y.M.) over Gerry Gill, of Balfour B, 21-18 in the third. Looks as if he may carry on where his father will leave off.

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THE battle for the leadership of the Fifth Division remains as keen as ever and certainly one of the best in the whole league. None of the four leading teams—Linnets B, Sefton, Balfour C and Victoria Park C—can afford to slip up.

Linnets B did let one point slip when they met Bath Street B at the end of last month and forfeited two sets through the absence of G. Walker. It gave Bath Street a point which might have been of inestimable value at the end of the season.

Sefton are chasing them hard although they found it more difficult to beat Anfield B on the latter's table than they probably had expected. Their win of 6-4 came through "doubles" scored by Davis and Douglas and two other sets from Kettle and Watson.

Davis was hard pressed to gain his victories over Bunner, whom he beat 22-20, 15-21, 21-16, and a like remark applies to the success scored by Kettle over Purnell—16-21, 21-16, 21-18. Maher, Bunner, Turpin and Coulson got a set apiece for Anfield.

Points have been so elusive for Cadwa B that the two they gained when they visited Bohemians C must have been more than welcome. The Bohemians two top players, Gee and Cockroft, got four sets between them. Cummins and Magrane were double winners for Cadwa, with other sets coming from Richardson and Craddock.

February was indeed, a sorry month for the Bohs for not only did they lose to Cadwa but they were also beaten at home by Rafter's C by a similar score. In this match Cohen, Cockroft, Barton and Smith each got a set, while Blenkinsop (2), Blackmore (2), Rider and Gardner were Rafter's winners.

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FEBRUARY was a great month for Florence Oxtou for they overcame every obstacle and made their challenge to the Sixth Division leaders, Victoria Park D, a much more potent one.

Their outstanding victory was that gained over Lussac by six sets to four. Linsner and Cook each won their two sets, the former beating Callaghan 21-11, 21-15 and H. Holmes 21-16, 22-20, and the latter defeating Leeming 21-14, 21-18 and W. Holmes 21-17, 21-19. Mansfield (beat Goodall 20-22, 21-16, 21-13) and McCarten (beat H. Holmes 12-21, 21-11, 21-18) got their other two.

Lussac's four came through Callaghan and Goodall each beating Moran, the former 20-22, 21-12, 21-16 and the latter 21-14, 4-21, 21-17; Leeming beating Mansfield 21-12, 21-15 and W. Holmes defeating McCarten 22-20, 21-17.

The most curious thing about "Florrie's" side is the way Moran seems to have completely lost his form. This time last year he was playing great stuff.

Waterloo Dock A lost their way somewhat—in a metaphorical sense—when they went out to Huyton to play Huntley & Palmer for they were beaten by six sets to four in a great match in which seven of the ten sets went to three games.

The Biscuitmen owed their victory to Gaskell and the two Campbells, who won all six sets between them.

But what battles some of them were. For instance: Gaskell v Lightburn—20-22, 25-23, 21-15; M. Campbell v Beresford—21-18, 12-21, 26-24. J. Campbell was, in fact, about the easiest winner of the evening, beating both Millin and Miss Poole in straight games.

The meeting of the two Nalgo's saw Bootle emerge victors by the narrowest of margins, thanks to Tudor and Cartwright each winning their two sets, to which Spiers and Winter added a set each. Lambert (2), Hewitt and Thompson were the Liverpool victors.

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Great Month For Beauclair

SHOCK result of the North Region in February was, of course, the defeat of the Post Office by Waterloo Park B, even though the visiting team included P. Anderson as reserve for Carr.

There was nothing fluke about the Park's victor. Indeed, four of their six sets were gained in straight games, only Rumph having to fight hard to get his two. The score card speaks for itself. Here it is: (Waterloo names first)

—T. Lorimer lost to A. Fowler 22-20, 16-21, 14-21, lost to W. Shiel 13-21, 15-21. A. Turner lost to Fowler 17-21, 19-21, lost to W. Cornthwaite 19-21, 17-21; A. Rumph beat Shiel 21-17, 12-21, 21-10, beat T. McCoy 21-23, 21-14, 21-16. A. Bramham beat Cornthwaite 21-19, 21-18, beat P. Anderson 21-9, 21-8, D. Chapman beat McCoy 21-13, 21-19, beat Anderson 21-15, 21-16.

The result of that match has meant that the Co-op. who won all their matches during the month and only dropped five sets have narrowed the gap between themselves and the Post Office to two points. Obviously the Post Office cannot afford to make any more slips if they want to make certain of the regional championship.

St. George's may not be strong in a playing sense but they are certainly a great hearted side. Overwhelming defeats seem unable to discourage them. Their match with the Post Office produced that greatest of rarities in table tennis—the sight of a player being defeated to love. It would, however, be rubbing it in a little too much to name the player concerned.

It was somewhat surprising to see Technical Students so badly beaten by both Bath Street C and Moss Side. The margin was 8-2 in each case, where one might have expected 6-4 at best. Against Moss Side Mulcahy and Edwards got the Students' two sets, and against Bath Street, Mulcahy was their only winner.

★ ★ ★

WAVERTREE BAPTISTS 10, Stuart and Dorfman 0. That's how the score read's in that Southern Region match, but how completely deceptive it is. It was no walk-over for the Baptists who

were taken to three games in six of the sets and only won the decider in three instances by a narrow margin.

Benny Dorfman must have rated it a particularly unlucky night for him for he was involved in two of the narrow results, being beaten 21-15, 19-21, 20-22 by Jay and 19-21, 21-14, 18-21 by Batey.

Beauclair A have been having a great spell. During February they won all their four matches and only conceded four sets in doing so. Two of their wins were by 10-0 and the other two by 8-2, even though they included Mrs. E. Palmer as reserve on each occasion.

What a fine reserve she proved to be for on each occasion she won her two sets. Against Crawfords A she beat Fraser 20-22, 21-5, 21-15 and Eymond 21-17, 21-14, and against Oakhill D she defeated Doyle 21-14, 19-21, 21-14 and Nelson 21-16, 18-21, 21-15.

Wavertree Labour's hardest fight of the month was with Oakhill D, whom they beat 7-3 by means of "doubles" from Hambleton, Chalonor and McEvoy. The last named, however, must have felt he was a trifle lucky to get away with his two sets as he only beat Malcolm 18-21, 21-17, 21-19 and Frank Moore 21-11, 21-23, 21-19.

Liverpool Cricket Club's A team got a heartening victory when they met Oakhill. Two sets each for McKintosh, Packer and Davies and a singleton from Taylor enabled them to win 7-3. Malcolm, Kirk and McCracken got Oakhill's trio in each instance in straight games.

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THE battle for the championship of the East Region has been re-kindled by the dropping of a couple of points by Wavertree Labour A just when it looked as though they had the title well in their pockets. Now they cannot afford to ignore the advance of Fairlawn A who have added further convincing victories to their total.

Fairlawn's C team did their senior side a lot of good when they surprisingly held the Labour club to a draw at Wavertree. For this most of the credit went to Martin and Carter for two sound double victories beating Jessop and Whitfield and Christie and Wilcox.

Bohemians Sprang Surprise

Aitcheson's 21-15 21-13 win over Wilcox got Fairlawn the point.

Ostec have also made their challenge for the championship more menacing with four wins during February, in the course of which they only dropped five sets. The best of them was their 8-2 win over Beauclair B when both the sets they lost—Kelly to R. Palmer and Moretta to Mrs. Audrey Brown—went to three games.

Beauclair B and Stoneycroft had a spirited match which appropriately ended in a draw, though Beauclair probably felt they should have won since three of the sets they lost took three games to decide.

All Beauclair's victories, gained by R. Palmer (2), E. Sturgess (2) and Mrs. E. Palmer, were clear cut.

Albright and Wilson still find it hard to win points. They only played two matches during February and were badly beaten on both occasions, although their best display was on Wavertree Labour's table for Ashworth and Callaghan each won a set.

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MATCH of the month in the women's first division was the meeting of Balfour and Ratters when the former ran out much easier winners than might have been expected. In fact, they only dropped one set, when Jean Reynolds beat Olive Dickenson 21-19 22-20.

But it was not quite so easy as the score suggested. Take, for instance, Julie Roberts' two wins over Myra Lovelady and Mrs. Reynolds. She beat Myra 21-19 28-26 and Jean 21-18 13-21 21-9.

The other scores in the match are worth recording. Here they are: Joyce Randall beat Myra Lovelady 21-10 22-20, beat Elizabeth Loughrey 21-15, 21-13; Olive Dickenson beat Rosemary McMullen 21-12 19-21 21-12; J. Jones beat Mrs. Loughrey 22-20, 21-16, beat Miss McMullen 21-10 21-18. The two doubles also went Balfour's way, each in three games.

Probably the best win of the month, and the most surprising, was that gained by Bohemians over Orrell, for which the Bohs had chiefly to thank Audrey Gee and Vi Gray. Few would have expected Mrs. Gee to have beaten Billie

Illidge but she did so by taking the second and third games 18 and 15 after losing the first to 13. She completed her "double" by defeating Lil Lacey 19 and 19.

Vi Gray's pair were over Mrs. Upton (14 and 9) and M. Griffiths (13 and 18), and Barbara Tomkinson (with a fine 19 and 15 win over Lil Lacey) and Edith Gleed (beat M. Griffiths 13 and 15) got the other two sets for Bohemians.

Linnets have undoubtedly been strengthened by the signing of Mrs. Turnbull. In the course of the past month she has scored one or two good wins. Best of them was that against Julie Roberts whom she beat 19 and 19.

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WATERLOO PARK have consolidated their position at the top of the second division but they had something of a setback in the middle of last month when they could only draw with Huntley and Palmer at Huyton. Fortunately for them Cadwa A met with the same fate when, some nine days later, they made the journey to the biscuit works.

D. Campbell did well for the Park, winning her two sets by beating both P. Brown 21-14 21-15 and M. Gray 16-21 21-7 21-11.

B. Pinnington was Huntley and Palmer's most successful player, winning her two singles by beating J. Pedley 21-19 21-11 and L. Jones 21-19 21-17. The two doubles sets were shared.

It was by winning the two doubles against Cadwa A that Huntley and Palmer were able to record their second draw in successive matches.

M. Gray won her two singles for Huntley and Palmer beating Brackley and Burton, and Pinnington got the other with a 21-12 21-13 victory over Hook. They also took the two doubles.

Ratters A also did well to hold Anfield to draw, thanks to their new player, D. Tynan, and P. Mitchell both winning their two singles sets. Their fifth set was obtained by A. Short.

For Anfield Duke, Nelson and Maher each won one of their singles and their pairing of Gray and Maher and Duke and Nelson were successful in the doubles, both in straight games.