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NEW

FEATURES

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OF THE

LIVLRPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE *Digest* TENNIS

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Vol. IX

April, 1959

No. 5

END - OF - SEASON NOTES

ANOTHER season has come to an end and now is the time to consider whether any changes in the conditions of the League should be made. These matters are, of course, entirely in the hands of the league clubs but we feel that great thought should be given to any proposal of changes.

It is an old axiom that the known Devil is better than the unknown Devil and it is therefore to be hoped that such amendments as are put forward to the Annual General Meeting—and there will doubtless be a number—would be an improvement.

Taking it all round it has been a good season, with plenty of interest. Congratulations are due to the Balfour Club for the great success they have attained in winning two cup and league doubles and topping two lower divisions.

On another page criticism is made of the appearance of players in one of the cup finals. It does seem surprising and a great pity that so many of our men players seem unable to find the time to clean their shoes. Indeed, some of the shoes do not appear to have been touched from the beginning of the season to the end.

How different it is in the case of women players. Seldom are they to be seen wearing shoes in the condition of many of the men's. Is this a pointer to the fact that women take a greater pride in their appearance?

Another thing which might be considered is playing in track suits or parts of track suits. Admittedly some of the clubrooms are not as warm as they might be, but very often that is not the reason. It certainly was not at the League Closed Championships.

It is seldom that such sloppy habits are found in other sports. Why should they be in table tennis?

DISAPPOINTING ENTRIES

by John McKim

ENTRIES for the closed this year have been very disappointing. The entry for the men's singles, for instance, was 50 less than last year, and the response to the veterans' singles, a total entry of 11, hardly makes the event a must for future tournaments.

Additional tables had been reserved and an additional hall was to be used at Dingle Vale, but after the draw these arrangements had to be cancelled. Many entries arrived after the closing date and were reluctantly accepted to make the tournament a worthwhile event for those who entered, but entries received after the draw could not be accepted.

I have visited three of the four cup finals this year, and the point that struck me most forcibly was the number of players who were serving foul services and getting away with it. One player served off his fingers, imparting spin, not once, but every time.

I feel that the answer is to improve the standard of umpiring in League matches. Three members of the League are going in for their County Umpires badges shortly, and if any other player would like to have a try, I shall be pleased to make the necessary arrangements.

A word about club secretaries, who, after all, are the people who make the League "tick". Without their hard work and co-operation, organised table tennis in Liverpool would be impossible. They very often get the blame when things go wrong, but so very seldom get

the praise they deserve when things go right.

Following an enquiry by the Management Committee, the following letter was sent to both Lussac and Stuart and Dorfman.

At the last meeting of your Committee consideration was given to the match wherein two players of Lussac first team were played in the 'A' team. A letter from Lussac was also taken into account.

As in all sporting activities the playing of ineligible players is considered as the most serious breach of any of the rules and in this particular case the position is worsened by the fact that Stuart & Dorfman were not only aware of it but also condoned the disregard of this important rule.

Your Committee regard these acts as inexcusable under any circumstances and to be treated with the utmost gravity and also as acts which could exact the severest penalty, that of expulsion from the League. However, your Committee, in this instance, have decided against this drastic step but issue a warning that any future case of this nature will be more strictly dealt with.

In this case your Committee have ordered the match to be replayed within 14 days of receipt of this letter and have imposed the maximum fine of £1 on Lussac and a fine of 10/- on Stuart & Dorfman.

As both teams did not replay the match, it has been expunged from the League records.

Taylor Does It Again

by Jack Pattison

ARTHUR TAYLOR, of Bath Street, put his name on the Montagu Burton Cup for the second time in successive years when the finals of the League's Closed Championships were played at Dingle Vale Schools, and so joined that select band of players who have won the trophy three times.

In a men's singles final which was a repeat of last year's event, he was again the master of Norman Jones, of Balfour, by 21-19 21-14 in a clash that had both players showing too much respect for his opponent to produce anything spectacular.

It was only on the odd occasion that we saw flashes of the brilliant play of which the two men are capable and these became fewer and farther between when Jones found himself over-hitting with his forehand drives.

Taylor owed his victory to just that slightly greater consistency, steadier defence and ability to counter-hit, plus a refusal to take chances. That latter fact became more pronounced after Jones had taken him to 19 in the first game, and the result was that the Balfour player could seldom make any impression on the cupholder.

But the surprises of the evening were, to my mind, the success of Reg Hetherington and Peter Rumjahn in the men's doubles and the fright which Eddie Clein, of Victoria Park, must have given Taylor in the semi-final of the men's singles.

The victory of Hetherington and Rumjahn, a veteran and a near veteran, was a striking commentary on the younger players of the league. There was no gainsaying their final win over the Balfour pair, Ken Gaulton and Norman Jones. Indeed, had not Rumjahn hit three somewhat careless shots when he and his partner led 19-17 in the second game, it would have been easier.

They had taken the first game 21-19 and the sudden change in the second seemed to give Gaulton and Jones more confidence and they went on to take the game 22-20. But that was all that was seen of them, for in the decider the old heads of their opponents quickly put Hetherington and Rumjahn in a dominating position which they

never allowed to slip so that they ran out easy winners 21-8.

The Taylor-Clein match was undoubtedly, from the spectators' point of view, the highlight of the evening. Few of those present gave the Victoria Park player much chance but how wrong he proved them and it is to his credit that by sheer ability he took a game out of Taylor and only lost the other two on narrow margins.

It must have been Clein's best-ever effort. His footwork throughout the match was of the highest order, as indeed it had to for him to be able to produce the remarkably fine retrieving shots which he did, so much so that Taylor could never be certain that the ace he hit would prove to be an ace.

What a pity it was that Clein lacked the confidence to use the attacking shot that he does possess, but he told me at the end of the evening that he intends to do something about that during the summer months. Certainly if he can achieve the same success with his attack as he can do with his defence he will be a player to be reckoned with next year.

The women's singles title went to Miss Reggie Royle who was a comfortable winner over Cadwa's Mrs. Betty Black in straight games. It was rarely indeed that Mrs. Black caused her opponent much worry and we had the unusual picture of Miss Royle finishing off the match with three brilliant drives, as if in a manner to show us what she is capable of doing.

Nevertheless Miss Royle must have considered herself not a little fortunate to be in the final as the result of an 18-21 21-16 21-15 win over Miss Julie Roberts in the semi-final. The pair had met three times previously this season and on each occasion the Balfour player had won in straight games.

One would have thought that those victories would have given Miss Roberts all the confidence she needed to go right out for victory, but instead she played the game as if her opponent were England's No. 1 and she could not afford to take the slightest risk. She hardly attempted to hit a winner and when she did was so uncertain that she invariably either over-hit or netted the ball.

CRAIG'S SURPRISE DEFEAT

Mrs. Pinky Rumjahn again took the women's doubles, this time in partnership with Mrs. Joyce Randall after a long struggle with Miss Roberts and Miss Eileen Mansell.

It was something of a surprise after the Balfour couple took the first game to 14 but in the next two Miss Mansell showed a big tendency to try and lift the ball over the net instead of hitting it, with the result that she netted many times. In addition, for a new pairing Pinky and Joyce teamed up exceedingly well and showed an excellent understanding. Both of them also were not afraid to go for the winner when the opportunity presented itself.

There was another surprise result in the final of the Junior Singles with the defeat of the Merseyside Open junior winner, Derek Craig, of Bootle Y.M.C.A., by Bob Eden, of Cadwa.

Without taking away any of the credit from Eden's victory, gained as the result of his continual efforts, Craig contributed to his own defeat by his wild play. Time and again he completely lost sight of the ball when endeavouring to put it away and it was only in the middle game, which he took to 9, that we saw something of his real capabilities.

For the first time the championships had included an event for the veterans of the league and not surprisingly it was won by Reg Hetherington. In the final he beat John Coveney in a match in which the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. player was always struggling.

Outstanding on the Wednesday evening for instance was the second round men's singles match between Bernard Hand (Bohemians)

and Ron Jones (Liverpool YMCA), which the latter won after losing the first game to 11. In fact, the pity was that one of the two had to pass out of the tournament.

The following evening brought even more closely contested matches, so much so that had the entry for the men's singles been greater—as it should have been—the referee might well have been pushed for time.

There was no finer game to watch than the fourth round meeting of Roy Jones, of Linnets, and Les Mulholland, of Balfour. Jones hit some magnificent drives and Mulholland replied with some equally fine recoveries, in between which he hit several stinging flicks. That Mulholland won 24-22 21-17 was a tribute to his great defensive capabilities.

For the record here are the results of the finals:

Men's Singles: A. C. Taylor beat N. R. Jones 21-19 21-14.

Women's Singles: Miss R. Royle beat Mrs. B. Black 21-15 21-10.

Junior Singles: R. Eden beat D. Craig 21-19 9-21 21-19.

Veterans' Singles: R. Hetherington beat J. Coveney 21-13 21-11.

Men's Doubles: R. Hetherington and P. Rumjahn beat K. Gaulton and N. R. Jones 21-19 20-22 21-8.

Women's Doubles: Mrs. J. Randall and Mrs. L. Rumjahn beat Miss J. Roberts and Miss E. Mansell 14-21 21-16 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: V. Chesham and Miss J. Roberts beat A. C. Taylor and Mrs. L. Lacey 21-18, 17-21 21-17.

Men's Consolation Singles: T. Ellis beat H. Wilcock 21-13 21-14.

Women's Consolation Singles: Mrs. J. Randall beat Mrs. I. Crafter 24-22 21-13.

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LIVERPOOL 1

Balfour Regain Cup

By Joe Ellison

THE league records will show that in 1958-59 Balfour won the Readman Cup by defeating Rafter's by eight sets to two in the final, but they could consider themselves a trifle lucky that the margin was so wide and so decisive. Two of three of the sets which went Balfour's way might just as easily have gone the way of Rafter's.

Les Mulholland put Balfour on the road to victory with a two-straight win over Peter Rumjahn. Rumjahn made very good use of the table and hit many fine forehand shots but Mulholland's defence was far too steady and he judiciously mixed in the occasional backhand flick.

The second set produced a very dour match between Reg Hetherington and Dave Ferguson in which both players paid the other the greatest respect possible and refused to hit a ball unless returned in a manner which obviously called for a kill. Hetherington took the first game to 16 and the second 25-23 after both he and Ferguson missed easy chances to clinch it.

The meeting of Norman Jones and Ron Rumjahn was a ding-dong match in which both hit, pushed and counter-hit with great accuracy. Jones took the first game 22-20 and Rumjahn the second 21-19, but for some unknown reason completely lost touch in the decider, so that Jones, with some crisp hitting, romped home 21-10 to put Balfour three sets to the good.

Their position became ever more commanding when Wilcox took the next set from McCaig in a game which the speed of the Rafter's player's hitting brought out the best in Wilcox. At one time it looked as though McCaig would run away with the set but the Balfour man eventually settled down and by deep returns to McCaig's backhand pegged him back and caused him to over-hit.

The meeting of Ferguson and Ken Gaulton was an interesting affair. Ferguson had hit himself into a good lead when Gaulton,

from somewhere, found a backhand flick. Why he did not use it earlier will always be a mystery but it pulled him up from 8-15 to 17-16 at which point Ferguson regained the initiative to win 21-18.

In the second game Ferguson again ran into a good lead and this time Gaulton could not retrieve the position so that the set went to Rafter's 21-14.

Rafter's had played Clint Casselman at No. 1 and although he had his own ideas as to how his set against Jones was to be played they made little impression on the Balfour player who won easily 21-11 21-16.

The Wilcox-Peter Rumjahn set was a contrast in style—Rumjahn's attack against Wilcox's defence and twice the Balfour player successfully managed to retrieve a losing position to take the set in straight games.

With Balfour having won the cup Casselman played his second set but with as little success against Mulholland as he had had against Jones, which brought us to the meeting of Hetherington and Ron Rumjahn.

It was an exhibition which all the spectators must have enjoyed. Ron produced some of his best form only to find that the years have taken little toll of Hetherington. His defence was impeccable and enabled him to take the game 21-19.

Once again we saw Rumjahn retrieve his position by taking the second game 21-18 but just when we settled down in the expectation of seeing a tip-top finish, once again Rumjahn lost all semblance of ideas and Hetherington strolled home 21-11.

There was some consolation for Rafter's in the final set which McCaig took by punching through Gaulton in straight games. This was quite definitely not Gaulton's night, but it had been an enjoyable match to watch, productive of some very good moments as well as some rather mediocre ones.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

Division 1						
	P	W	L	D	F	A Pts
Balfour	22	22	0	0	174	46 44
Rafters	22	13	4	5	126	94 31
Victoria Pk	22	13	5	4	132	87 30
L'pool Y.M.	22	13	6	3	137	83 29
Bohemians	22	10	8	4	111	109 24
Linnets	22	9	9	4	111	109 22
Bootle Y.M.	22	8	8	6	107	113 22
Anfield	22	8	12	2	105	115 18
Bath Street	22	6	12	4	101	119 16
Oakhill	22	6	16	0	77	142 12
Balfour A	22	4	17	1	68	152 9
Litherland	22	2	17	3	70	150 7

Division 2						
	P	W	L	D	F	A Pts
L'pool Y.M.A	22	21	1	0	184	36 42
Waterloo Pk	22	21	1	0	178	42 42
Bootle Y.M.A	22	15	6	1	134	86 31
Rafters A	22	12	8	2	130	90 26
Oakhill A	22	8	8	6	105	115 22
Cadwa	22	7	9	6	96	123 20
Waterloo Dk	22	8	11	3	106	114 19
Lucem	22	7	10	5	97	123 19
Bohemians A	22	7	10	5	94	126 19
Bohemians B	22	6	13	3	90	130 15
Linnets A	22	1	17	4	61	159 6
English Elec.	22	1	20	1	44	175 3

Division 3						
	P	W	L	D	F	A Pts
Victoria Pk A	22	22	0	0	189	31 44
Anfield A	22	17	4	1	150	70 35
Litherland A	22	11	5	6	121	99 28
Beauclair	22	10	8	4	117	103 24
Bath Street A	22	7	8	7	114	106 21
R.A.F.A.	22	7	8	7	108	112 21
Bootle Y.M. B	22	8	10	4	99	121 20
Waterloo Pk	22	7	11	4	94	126 18
Linacre	22	7	11	4	92	128 18
Rafters B	22	6	12	4	87	133 16
L.P.A.S.	22	6	13	3	94	126 15
Cadwa A	22	1	19	2	55	165 4

Division 4						
	P	W	L	D	F	A Pts
Balfour B	22	20	1	1	171	49 41
Victoria Pk B	22	19	1	2	157	63 40
Watloo Pk A	22	17	4	1	145	75 35
Fairlawn	22	14	5	3	138	82 31
Litherland B	22	13	7	2	121	99 28
University	22	9	10	3	100	120 21
Wrbrck Moor	22	7	11	4	99	121 18
Harold House	22	6	13	3	86	134 15
L'pool Y.M. B	22	5	14	3	94	126 13
Bohemians B	22	3	14	5	84	136 11
Aigburth	22	4	18	0	66	154 8
L.P.A.S. A	22	1	20	1	59	161 3

Division 5						
	P	W	L	D	F	A Pts
Balfour C	22	20	2	0	169	51 40
Sefton	22	18	4	0	159	61 36
Victoria Pk C	22	17	5	0	162	58 34
Linnets B	22	16	5	1	156	64 33
Oakhill B	22	14	6	2	129	91 30
Bootle Y.M. C	22	11	9	2	101	119 24
Bath Street B	22	8	13	1	104	116 17
Anfield B	22	5	12	5	92	128 15
Litherland C	22	7	14	1	82	138 15
Cadwa B	22	3	18	1	57	163 7
Rafters C	22	3	18	1	53	167 7
Bohemians C	22	3	19	0	56	164 6

Division 6						
	P	W	L	D	F	A Pts
Victoria Pk D	22	20	2	0	165	55 40
Florence Oxtn	22	18	1	3	160	60 39
Lussac	22	15	4	3	140	80 33
Wtrloo Dk A	22	16	6	0	132	88 32
Huntley & P.	22	13	7	2	125	95 28
Nalgo	22	10	10	2	119	101 22
Bootle Nalgo	22	8	11	3	112	108 19
Telecomms	22	7	13	2	93	127 16
Domestic Mis.	22	5	13	4	75	145 14
Linnets C	22	3	15	4	72	148 10
Anfield C	22	3	18	1	72	148 7
L.P.A.S. B	22	0	18	4	55	165 4

North Region						
	P	W	L	D	F	A Pts
Liverpool P.O.	22	20	1	1	199	21 41
Co-op	22	18	3	1	166	54 37
Wtrloo Pk B	22	17	4	1	153	67 35
Bath Street C	22	14	6	2	136	84 30
Bootle Y.M. D	22	12	7	3	117	103 27
Fairlawn	22	13	9	0	113	107 26
Belling & Lee	22	10	10	2	113	107 22
Moss Side	22	8	13	1	91	129 17
Wtrloo Pk C	22	2	14	6	79	141 10
Lewis's	22	3	16	3	65	155 9
Anfield D	22	3	17	2	59	161 8
St. George's	22	1	21	0	29	191 2

South Region						
	P	W	L	D	F	A Pts
Wavrtree Lab	20	19	1	0	167	33 38
Wvrtree Bapt.	20	18	2	0	167	33 36
Beauclair A	20	14	3	3	135	65 31
Stuart & Dorfman	19	9	6	4	106	84 22
Liverpool C.C.	20	10	8	2	107	93 22
Aigburth A	20	9	8	3	98	102 21
Fairlawn B	20	7	12	1	93	107 15
Crawfords A	20	6	12	2	69	131 14
L'pool C.C. A	20	3	16	1	45	155 7
Oakhill D	20	3	17	0	54	146 6
Lussac A	19	3	16	0	49	141 6

(Lussac A v Stuart & Dorfman match expunged from records.)

LINNET C
BALFOUR D
CRANFORDS B
TECH STUDS

LEAGUE TABLES

East Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Fairlawn A	20	17	2	1	148	52	35
Castro	20	17	2	1	142	58	35
Wvtree Lab A	20	15	2	3	125	75	33
Crawfords	20	11	5	4	119	81	26
Nalgo A	20	8	9	3	104	96	19
Beauclair B	20	8	9	3	100	100	19
Stoneycroft	20	7	10	3	95	105	17
Oakhill C	20	5	11	4	80	120	14
Eng. Elec. A	20	4	14	2	71	129	10
Fairlawn C	20	3	15	2	66	134	8
Albright & W	20	1	17	2	50	150	4

ST. EDWARDS OR

L.P.A.S.
ANFIELD C.

Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Balfour	18	18	0	0	152	28	36
Rafters	18	13	2	3	124	56	29
Cadwa	18	9	5	4	104	76	22
Oakhill	18	9	5	4	97	83	22
Bibbys	18	8	6	4	98	82	20
Orrell	18	6	9	3	92	88	15
Linnets	18	5	9	4	85	95	14
Bohemians	18	5	12	1	67	113	17
Bath Street	18	4	11	3	64	116	11
Bohemians A	18	0	18	0	17	163	0

Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Waterloo Pk	16	15	0	1	129	31	31
Cadwa A	16	12	3	1	117	43	25
Sefton	16	11	4	1	99	60	23
Huntley & P.	16	9	3	4	107	53	22
Anfield	16	6	7	3	81	79	15
Rafters A	16	5	10	1	58	102	11
Bibbys A	16	5	11	0	57	102	10
Wvtree Lab.	16	3	12	1	52	108	7
Lucem	16	0	16	0	19	141	0

L.P.A.S.

TECH STUDS.

Linnets Say Thanks

On past occasions the *Digest* has been kind enough to publish letters of mine and I hope that you will print this one.

As you know, Linnets lost their clubroom at the end of February. There were still some three weeks' games to be played, and we were, as it were, out on a limb. A hectic period of phoning to other Club Secretaries resulted in a completely unanimous agreement to play all of Linnets' "home" matches on their opponents' tables.

We have quite a lot of teams, and nearly every one of the opposing clubs were also "multiple" clubs, but they all managed to find a free evening or two to fit these matches in.

In particular I would like to express thanks to Jack Coveney, who arranged for one of our ladies' matches to be played at the Y.M.C.A.

The members of Linnets wish me to express our deep and sincere gratitude to every one of the clubs concerned. The club will have a new room for next season, but had we not had such complete co-operation there would have been no club to find a room for—JIM GREEN.

Committee's Thanks

The Management Committee would like to express their thanks and appreciation to the following clubs for the use of their clubrooms for inter-city matches and cup finals: Balfour, Beauclair, Bibbys, Bohemians, Bootle Y.M.C.A., Florence Oxtan, Huntley & Palmer, L.P.A.S., Oakhill, Rafters and Waterloo Dock.

Balfour Get Their Revenge

By EILEEN MANSELL

AFTER 11 years Balfour have again won the Bartholomew Cup. It was the second year in succession that Cadwa and Balfour contested the final. Last year Cadwa won by only one point. This time Balfour made sure that their victory would be decisive by winning by eight sets to two.

The odds must have been heavily in Balfour's favour for previously this season they had beaten Cadwa twice and each time comfortably.

It was not an exciting match and bore little resemblance to last season's final. Winning the toss Balfour assumed the dominant role which they never afterwards lost, by putting Olive Dickenson on against Maureen Robinson.

It was the latter's first cup final and it was not surprising that she appeared nervous, with the result that she lost the first game to 7. She was more settled in the next and battled her way to 17-all at which point Olive took the next four points for the set.

Cadwa chose Betty Black against Julie Roberts for the next set. There were one or two good rallies, especially when Betty got her forehand going but Julie managed to get them back from halfway up the wall. Unfortunately for Betty her forehand was a bit too erratic and Julie won 21-15, 30-28 to put Balour two up.

Joyce Jones went on against Cadwa's captain, Ivy Crafter. Joyce usually suffers from cup final nerves but this time she was completely relaxed and played as though in practice. She was far too steady for Ivy who did not seem to be able to get onto her game and Joyce took the set in straight games to put Balfour in a commanding position.

We saw the best match of the evening in a battle royal between Pauline Lawrenson and Olive Dickenson. The latter had really found her form and was hitting on both forehand and backhand only to find Pauline showing a rock-like defence. Her much improved forehand gradually wore Olive down and in the end Pauline ran out

winner 21-17 in the third.

By the time the interval was reached it was fairly obvious that Cadwa were up against it, but this fact had not affected in any way the sporting and friendly way in which all the sets were played.

Betty Black did not play nearly so well against Joyce Randall as she had against Julie. There were one or two good bouts of counter-attacking but with a consistent attack Joyce took the set in two straight.

Pauline Lawrenson's sound defence stood her in good stead when she met Julie Roberts and she won in straight games, but without taking away any of the credit of Pauline's victory, there was no doubt that Julie was well below form, possibly due to the fact that she was just getting over the flu.

Against Joyce Jones, Maureen Robinson was more happy than she had been in her opening set and several times got good hits past Joyce, but the Balfour player was just that much too strong for her and won in the third. With a little more experience of the first division however, Maureen will be an asset to her side.

The last match of the evening was the doubles between Julie Roberts and Joyce Randall and Betty Black and Ivy Crafter and proved to be quite an hilarious affair, possibly because the match had been well and truly won.

It was a very close affair—too close indeed for the four players who frequently found themselves getting in the way of their partner. Probably Balfour's 22-20 win in the third was more because of the fact that they were less guilty of this fault than their opponents than to anything else.

In the absence of Mr. C. E. Bartholomew, the cup was presented to Balfour by Miss Margaret Lindner, who also presented to them the league championship medals. Altogether this had been Balfour's year and one wonders whether they will be able to repeat next season. A lot of clubs will be after their blood.

HISTORY MADE IN FINAL

By JACK PATTISON

LEAGUE history was created in this year's Rumjahn Cup final by the appearance of two teams from the same club. It also incidentally created a record for the club concerned for it was the first time a Victoria Park team has won a major trophy in the 20-odd years they have been members of the league.

The records will show that Victoria Park A defeated Victoria Park B by seven sets to three, but what they will not show is that the result might just as easily have been much closer.

To my mind the vital set came when Ted Morris and Mike Truman clashed immediately after the interval with Park A leading 3-2. When Truman took the first game to 16 by means of much judicious play interspersed with an occasional fierce drive, it looked as though the B team might well have a chance of surprising their seniors.

And when he held a useful lead in the second that prospect grew even stronger. But Truman could only blame himself that he did not clinch the set in straight games. Time and again he made many openings, forced Morris into bad positions, yet never attempted to thrust home his advantage.

Against a player of Morris's calibre it was a fatal policy, especially when the A team player used his corner to corner service which was almost invariably followed up with an untakeable drive.

The use of a little headwork would also have served Richie Staunton well in his set against Morris. Staunton possesses a useful forehand drive. He used it persistently against Morris and although it lacked the killing pace, it was sufficiently strong to send Morris well away from the table. Time and again Staunton had the chance to drop one short, but only once did he use the tactic—successfully too.

So another set went against the B team which might well have gone

the other way, a remark which also applied to the final set of the evening between Don Tarr and Stan Harvey.

There is not the slightest doubt that Harvey had his opponent worried, even though the cup had then been won, when he took the first game, but the care he had taken during that game disappeared in the next two and it was not surprising to see Tarr completely change the tenor of the match.

One thing that Truman's display of the evening showed was that Victoria Park were right three months ago when they asked the Management Committee to approve his re-grouping for the A team. He is obviously strong enough for the No. 2 position.

The B team's three sets came from Truman beating Bob Mason and Harvey and Brian Capper both defeating Jim Houghton, but I would advise Capper to be careful about his spin service. Several times during both his sets it struck me as being very suspect and no umpire could be blamed if he fouled him for it.

Eddie Cameron set the style for his team mates in his opening set against Tarr. Eddie has one or two shots that won't be found in any text book but there is nothing peculiar about his fighting ability. He made every point the winning point to such an extent that he was a trifle unlucky to be narrowly beaten.

One memory that will remain with me is that it was one of the most enjoyable matches that I have ever attended. There was not the slightest attempt to give or ask for quarter on the table, but that did not in any way spoil the friendly atmosphere which prevailed off the table.

Maybe this was because all ten players and most of the little knot of spectators were from the one club, but it was an example for all matches.

Hyde Cup Surprise

By SAM STURGEON

A SPLENDID evening's play at the Balfour Club saw Wavertree Baptists spring a surprise on Wavertree Labour in the final of the Hyde Cup to win by nine sets to one. The score, however, does not give a true reflection of the play for no fewer than five of the sets went to three games.

Both teams were quite obviously nervous but the Baptists were the quicker to settle down and this was undoubtedly a big factor in the way two or three of the early sets went. Travis and Hambleton opened the match and the former had little difficulty in taking the first game 21-6. Then Hambleton settled down but although he played much better he left it too late and Travis won the second game 21-16 to put the Baptists in the lead.

The Labour Club managed to level the score when N. Challenor beat J. Travis in a three-game set. Travis's attack was right off in the first game but improved in the second which he managed to win. He made a great rally in the third after being 10-15 down but although he pulled up much of the leeway he could not make all of it up and lost 18-21.

The meeting of Don Inge and Ken Armson was a good game to watch. Both played open table tennis and it was due mainly to the effective use that Inge made of both sides of the table that he was able to win 22-20, 21-12.

After taking the first game 21-7 from J. Farquharson, Mal Travis had to fight hard all the way for victory. Farquharson attacked consistently in the second, which he took 21-16, but Travis's all-round play was just too good for him in

the third and another set went to the Baptists.

McEvoy fought hard against Jay in an effort to keep his team in the running, only to lose in three games, but the great surprise of the evening came from Kewley, promoted to No. 2 in the Baptist's team for the final.

Few of the spectators gave him much hope against either Hambleton or Challenor but he completely confounded the forecasters by beating both in straight sets. His most effective shot was a devastating backhand to the far corner of the table and time and again it had both his opponents completely beaten.

The seventh and deciding set produced a real tussle between Jay and Armson. Down 17-18 in the first, Jay attacked at the right moment to take the next four points for the game. In the second game, Armson, receiving a signal from his team mates, switched his attack to Jay's backhand to such purpose that he took it 21-19.

He tried to repeat his tactics in the third game but Jay had other ideas which he successfully applied and took the game 21-19.

The fact that the cup had been won by the Baptists took much of the bite out of Farquharson's game with Inge and he lost in straight games, but the predestination of the trophy did not worry McEvoy in the final set of the evening with J. Travis. He made a terrific fight of it, only losing 20-22, 21-18, 21-23.

For a cup final I was greatly surprised to see only one clean pair of shoes among the ten players. Surely a little more effort by players to such details would be appreciated by all concerned.

All-Conquering Season

ONCE again Balfour have won the league championship—but with a difference this time, for they have done so without dropping a point and on average only conceding slightly more than two sets per match.

It is a great achievement which will be hard to equal in the future and is the result of a team that can “bat” right from No. 1 down to No. 5. Admittedly they had one or two narrow escapes when unable to turn out their full team, but they overcame them all.

In Norman Jones they have undoubtedly had a fine leader. He has played consistently well throughout the season. Indeed his record of having lost only three sets in league and cup matches gives proof of that.

It seems a little odd that we should find Arthur Taylor, the league singles champion, with the second best record—he was beaten four times during the season.

Victoria Park very nearly overtook Rafters for second place. Only their unfortunate experience at Oakhill, which cost them two points, prevented them.

The division will seem a little odd next season without Balfour A, but they have been knocking on the relegation door several times in recent years and could hardly expect to continually receive no response. With them go Litherland, whose stay has indeed been a short one.

★ ★ ★

IT will be interesting to see how Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A and Waterloo Park will fare in the first division. Theirs has been a good battle in the second division, which the Y.M. only won by the narrow

margin of six sets with the Park beating them 7-3 at Waterloo in the final match.

It was a fine performance by the Park players but it was only achieved after a very hard struggle in which no fewer than eight of the ten sets went to three.

From early in the season it was obvious that Linnets A and English Electric would find it difficult to avoid being relegated to Division 3. Both sides have been too weak for second division standards. Yet Linnets have one or two players who should have done better. Possibly the difficulties which their club have experienced during the season has not helped.

I.C.I. missed Derek Jones in several of their matches, otherwise it is probable they would have had a better season and finished higher up in the table.

A bouquet to Mrs. Gladys Rimmer, the division's only woman who has played regularly throughout the season. At No. 2 for Lucem she has had to bear much of their fight and though her fortunes have not always been of the best, she has more than done her bit for her team.

★ ★ ★

VICTORIA PARK A and Anfield A have not remained long in the third division. In topping the section the Park are one of only three teams who have not conceded a set in their league matches.

That is some indication of their strength, but perhaps the biggest factor of all in their success was the fact that they could always call on more-than-useful reserves if the occasion demanded.

POSITIONS ARE REVERSED

At one time it looked as though there would be a keener fight between Anfield A and Litherland A for promotion but the Litherland boys slipped once or twice when they could have been expected to win and Anfield finished easy runners-up.

They will however need to be a little more on their toes next season if they want to make a bold showing. There is just that much difference between the two divisions.

If it is any consolation to the Police, who are relegated with Cadwa A, they have the knowledge that they go down after having scored more points than several other teams in the league who have escaped their fate.

There is no doubt they would have escaped had they been able to turn out their best team every week—but such is the luck of their job.

★ ★ ★

WHAT a fight Balfour B and Victoria Park B have had in the fourth division. Balfour have won the division by a point but their sets average was also considerably better, so that they are undoubtedly worthy of their position. Balfour thus reversed the positions of the two teams in the fifth division last year.

Like most of the teams from the Institute they are strongly represented throughout.

Victoria Park B will be replacing their A team in the third division and they are strong enough to give a good account of themselves. The stronger opposition should be good for Mike Truman, if he is still in the side.

Once again Aigburth find themselves in the unenviable position of being second to bottom of the table. They were saved from relegation at the beginning of the season by the resignation of several teams. They can hardly hope to be so fortunate again.

With them go Police A who last year narrowly escaped by a point, and what has been said about their senior team can be repeated about them, only more so.

★ ★ ★

ODD how we find things repeating themselves. Just as Balfour B reversed last year's positions with Victoria Park B, so too have Balfour C with Sefton. Last year Sefton topped the sixth division with a six points lead over Balfour; this time Balfour have topped Division 5 with a four points lead over Sefton.

But Sefton might easily not have achieved promotion. Only the couple of slips Victoria Park C made early in the season gave them their chance. Still, they have deserved it for they have played fairly consistently throughout and showed they were worthy runners-up to Balfour when they held them to 4-6 on the Balfour table.

A mixture of age and youth, it will be interesting to see how the Balfour team fare in the higher division.

Bohemians C could hardly have expected to have escaped relegation. They are simply not strong enough for the division and will probably be a lot happier lower down. They should be able to give a reasonably good account of themselves in Division 6.

Up and Up They Go

Four sets have cost Rafter's C their relegation for it was on their slightly better sets average that Cadwa B avoided the drop.

★ ★ ★

FLORENCE OXTON are making steady progress in the league. Promoted to the Sixth Division from the South Region last season, they have now won their way into the Fifth Division, but they are likely to find the going a bit harder next term inasmuch as this year's sixth was composed of teams who were all in the regions last season, except for Anfield C and Domestic Mission.

Victoria Park D brought another credit to their club by emulating their A team in topping the division with a point more than Florence Oxtan. In Hughes and Price, the Park must have had among the best Nos. 4 and 5 in the division. They certainly won a lot of sets for them and two such players can very often decide the match.

One of the most surprising things about Florence Oxtan has been the way they have varied their playing positions. Only George Linsner has been pretty well consistent, playing at No. 1. Eddie Moran, for instance, must have figured in practically every position in the team.

Is Anfield C going to miss relegation again owing to resignations? They would probably be much happier in a region, as would also Police B.

★ ★ ★

ALTHOUGH Liverpool Post A Office have won the North Region championship by four points from Co-op, their success was not so all-conquering as it looked like being at the beginning of the season, so much so that there were one or two protests about their being placed in a region.

And it would have been narrower but for the unexpected setback

which the Co-op suffered in their final game at the hands of Bath Street C. Down 3-4 Bath Street took the last three sets with Larsen beating Crank (two straight), Connell beating Jones (21-12 in the third) and Rawlinson beating Murphy (two straight).

It has been Technical Students' best season since they returned to the league. Perhaps next season they may well improve on their sixth position in the table.

Congratulations to St. George's for the way they have played on despite one heavy defeat after another. They would probably have welcomed another match rather than the two points they gained from a walk-over from Bootle Y.M.C.A. D.

★ ★ ★

WAVERTREE LABOUR had their consolation for being beaten in the final of the Hyde Cup by Wavertree Baptists, in keeping the South Region championship from them. The pair had been running neck and neck throughout the season, with Beauclair A lying in a handy position, but despite their one slip up the Labour Club kept their nose in front.

Oddly enough both the Labour Club and the Baptists finished with exactly the same sets average. The former certainly finished up with a flourish, beating Beauclair A by nine sets to one. Their only defeat in the match was suffered by Hambleton, who lost 17 and 17 to Radcliffe.

Stuart and Dorfman did well for newcomers to the league, a remark which also applies to the Liverpool Cricket Club. It may well be that they will be teams to reckon with next season.

Oakhill D overtook Lussac A in the last lap by beating them 6-4 and so compelled the latter to become wooden spoonists.

Won Every Match

A BETTER sets average has given Fairlawn A the championship of the East Region. Ostec put in a great end-of-the-season rally but the sets they had dropped earlier in the season told against them.

It is, however, good to see such a close fight, for right on the heels of the pair were Wavertree Labour A, who at one time looked like copying the example of their first team in the South Region. Their 6-4 defeat by Ostec at the beginning of March was a big blow to their hopes. Skipper Jones and Crawford were mainly responsible for they each won both their sets.

Last season Stoneycroft finished fourth from bottom; this season they have finished fifth. With a little improvement they may well better that position next season.

★ ★ ★

ONCE again Balfour have won the women's championship. No one can deny that they have been the outstanding team of the season and like their first men's team, they have achieved their success without dropping a point. But there are rumours that their team next season will be nothing like as strong as it was this term. However, time will tell.

The slightest weakening of Balfour will undoubtedly give

Rafters their chance to nip in. They are a good side and their newest player, Doris Tynan, has shown that she has possibilities. She only took up the game this season but she has more than made her mark.

Bohemians A will doubtless be glad to return to the second division. It's terribly discouraging to be beaten week after week, and to such an extent that they averaged less than a set a match.

Their first team only missed accompanying them by the skin of their teeth—or to be more exact three sets—but it was enough to make Bath Street eligible for the drop.

★ ★ ★

IN winning Division 2 by dropping only one point, Waterloo Park have made sure that their stay in the lower sphere has been the shortest possible, a remark which also applies to Cadwa A with whom they went down last term.

Will they do any better next season than they did the last time they were in Division 1 Time alone will tell but somehow the odds appear to be with them.

Setton and Huntley and Palmer have had a much improved season and it may well be that next season they will be more serious contestants for promotion than they were this time.

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